

THE GATEWAY

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University of Alberta welcomes first-year students

CHLOÉ FIEDO
Deputy News Editor

After two days of orientation, first-year students, along with a range of orientation leaders, gathered at the Haverlak Park Amphitheatre Tuesday evening for the annual Presidents' address.

Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Justin Kehoe spoke to the audience first, welcoming the large group of students to their first year of postsecondary education, and setting the tone for the event.

"I'm here to spread the good word about mustaches, bandanas and aviators," said Kehoe. "Although those are all a very integral part of student life, I'm actually here to welcome you all to the University of Alberta."

"I hope that you continue to cheer after every sentence that I say," he added.

"You can sit back and let it happen, or you can make it happen: go make it happen."

GRAHAM LETTNER
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

SU President Graham Lettner then took the stage and encouraged the crowd evening more.

"All around you, these are your peers," he said. "Tomorrow you're going to walk into your classroom, you're going to be taught by your professors, you're going to be taking out your books from your library, doing your experiments in your laboratories, watching your athletics team win your championships. For all intents and purposes, this is now your University; right on."

The SU President then took a more serious tone, offering a final word of advice to inspire the new students starting their University career.

"From the slightly older to the up-and-coming, and from the somewhat experienced to the all-eager-to-experience, I have one thing to mention," he said. "You can sit back and let it happen, or you can make it happen: go make it happen."

Though the crowd was filled mostly with eager first-years, they weren't the only ones experiencing the beginning of their time at the U of A. University President Dr. Indira Samarasekera, who started her term this July, welcomed students, and she related to their anticipation for the upcoming year.

"Did you know that this is my first at the University of Alberta?" Dr. Samarasekera asked.

As the crowd continued to cheer, orientation leader Paul Owen jumped onto the stage and wrapped an orange bandana around the President's head, a sign of the Faculty of Arts.

PLEASE SEE WELCOME • PAGE 2



HOLD YOUR FIRE! Dr Indira Samarasekera donned a fireman's cap from an eager orientation leader who put it on her head at the annual Presidents' address. MATT FRESHER

Locked-out CBC staff broadcast on CJSR

JAMES STOKRIE
News Writer

Members of the Canadian Media Guild (CMG), who have been locked out from their positions at the CBC since 14 August, are broadcasting once again, this time on campus radio station CJSR.

While the CMG employees have been locked out, all CBC radio and television programming is being delivered by the network's remaining managerial staff. In the meantime, campus radio stations across the country have been picking up the CMG members and putting them back on the air.

Several stations, including CJSW in Calgary, are involved in CBC Radio Zero, a collaborative effort of the locked-out broadcasters as a substitute for the programs they presented on CBC. Others, including CJSR, are broadcasting special programs on an individual basis.

Daryl Richel, programming manager at CJSR, has been overseeing the crossover broadcasts at his campus station. The broadcasts were a logical

decision, he said, given the overlap between the audiences of CJSR and CBC radio.

"Most of the people who did listen to the CBC have postsecondary education; there were a lot of student listeners for sure, especially for the late-night music programming."

DARYL RICHEL
PROGRAM MANAGER, CJSR

"A lot of students did listen to the CBC," he said.

"Most of the people who did listen to the CBC have postsecondary education; there were a lot of student listeners for sure, especially for the late-night music programming."

PLEASE SEE LOCKOUT • PAGE 6

SU lobbies province for increased funding

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

The U of A Students' Union, along with the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), released a set of proposals this week in a bid to influence the provincial government's ongoing review of postsecondary education.

Simultaneous press conferences held Tuesday in SUB and at the universities of Calgary and Lethbridge launched a media campaign to support the submission to the Steering Committee of a Learning Alberta, which has no undergraduate representatives.

The student groups say that they hope the submission and the campaign will help ensure that the Alberta government lives up to pledges Premier Ralph Klein made in his February televised address regarding increased funding for and expansion of Alberta's postsecondary system.

"We hope that through this campaign and through student lobbying, after this year Alberta will have the most affordable tuition policy in the country, the best institutions

in the country, and the lowest levels of student debt in Canada," said SU President Graham Lettner.

During the February address, Klein said the government would create a \$3 billion endowment to fund innovation within the postsecondary system. He also said that the system would be rapidly expanded to accommodate more students, and that by the fall of 2006 Alberta would have Canada's most affordable tuition policy.

The current review will make recommendations in all these areas, but Lettner said the CAUS submission goes even further, and he hopes the committee will be influenced by its proposals.

"We want the government not only to live up to its promises, but to go further," he said. "We need to reverse the trend of rising tuition, of students graduating with high debt loads, and of fewer professors per student. We need to improve core funding to our postsecondary institutions so they can fully recover from historic cuts and meet their full potential."

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Out of hibernation

The Golden Bears football team hopes to hand the Calgary Dinos a beating in their home opener on Saturday.

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Michel, my belle

Canadian singer/songwriter Danny Michel on the merits of the Junos, Canadian Idol and wine.

A&E, PAGE 32

Important Correction

In the story "University artists hang innovative creations" run in our 1 September issue, we erroneously printed that artist Julian Forrest used images off of a site entitled "rape.com." This should have read "rape.com." We apologize to Mr. Forrest for any misinterpretations of his work this may have caused.

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colophon

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Uman PowerLite 1000 flatbed scanners, and Nikon
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images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster
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are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the
printing press. Text is set in variety of sizes, styles,
and weights of (Times, Helvetica, and Arial). The
Macintosh is the Gateway's sister paper. The Gateway's
games of choice are Roll and Rats.

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CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Amanda Ash

WEIGHED-DOWN CYCLISTS

Around 11:30pm on Monday, 29 August, an on-duty bike patrol constable observed a male and female riding bikes northbound on 112 Street. Both riders were stopped for various equipment violations under the Traffic and Safety Act. They verbally identified themselves and it was determined that neither were affiliated with the University. The constable found that the male was in possession of a two-way radio, bike tools, a six-inch fillet knife sheathed in duct tape, a pouch containing various heroin paraphernalia, and a weapon that had been fashioned by wrapping a billiard ball with electrical tape.

The male said that he had been a methamphetamine addict and moved to Alberta to escape "the drug life" and look for work. The female was found to be in possession of marijuana, methamphetamines, bolt cutters and a folding knife. She was arrested, and it was further determined that she was in possession of credit cards that had been stolen from an off-campus hotel earlier in the evening. She also admitted to stealing the bike that she was riding from near the south end of Hub Mall because it wasn't locked up. Charges are pending.

MYSTERIOUS RIDER

At around 4am on Wednesday, 31 August, Campus 5-0 noted a suspicious male riding around campus on a beat-up mountain bike. He was taken in for questioning, but became extremely belligerent and uncooperative throughout the investigation. The male, determined to be a crystal meth and speed addict, was identified and issued a provincial summons for failing to provide his name and for various equipment violations. The male had no University affiliation, but did possess a criminal record for property-related offences including theft.

WILL YOU TAKE MY PICTURE?

On Friday, 2 September at 2:53pm, a male was reportedly taking digital pictures of two females sitting in the SUB food court. The male, about 28-years-old with darker skin and wearing a green sweater and jeans, was observed by a third female who reported the activity to Campus Security. The third female then alerted the two unaware ladies of the situation, and proceeded to confront the male. The suspect then hastily exited the west doors of SUB located near the main floor bookstore area.

THIRTY THEFTS

On Sunday, 4 September between 1pm and 3pm, thefts were reported from the fourth floor of Kelsey Hall. The rooms were unoccupied at the time of the thefts, and there were no signs of forced entry. The property stolen included three laptops and a digital camera with a total value of approximately \$5500. Witnesses came



COURTESY OF CAMPUS SECURITY

QUITE THE HAUL 5-0 constables confiscated a slew of items last week.

forward and described a suspicious male seen in the area as 35 years old and about 5'8" with olive skin, long black shoulder-length hair and wearing jeans.

Anyone who has further information about the thefts is asked to contact the Lister Liaison Officer, Constable Brad Bulman, at 492-5050.

AFTERNOON SIESTA

At about 4:45pm on Monday, 5 September, Campus Security received a report that a man was passed out on the grass near 111 Street and 89 Avenue. The man was not affiliated with the University, and was known to the 5-0 as having an extensive criminal record for

violence and property-related offences. He was arrested and issued a provincial summons for trespassing before being escorted off campus.

FUNNY MONEY

On Tuesday, 6 September at 2pm, University staff in SUB reported that a male attempted to purchase a bus pass with a counterfeit \$100 bill and that he was still in the area. Campus 5-0 arrived on the scene and identified the man as a current student. The student explained that he suspected the bills were obtained out of country. He is cooperating with the Edmonton Police Service investigation.

STREETERS

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has been locking out its workers since last month, disrupting radio and television programming. Now, some of the broadcasters are using campus radio stations like CJSR to broadcast their shows.

What do you think about CBC employees broadcasting shows on campus stations?

Mark Diaz
Science IJeff Dyer
MBA IKristy Baron
Science IIIJenn Gamble
Science IV

I think that the campus radio stations should only be for campus students. I think, for the U of A, [CJSR] should be a thing of campus pride. [But] I'm new, so I don't really listen to it.

I listen to CBC radio in the morning and I haven't noticed a difference. But I still think that other non-campus shows should be kept out. Let the unions sort it out.

I hope that the CBC can figure things out soon. But on the other hand, it's beneficial for smaller stations like CJSR to run CBC shows. They should mostly stick with campus-based stuff, but it will also give them more publicity.

I think it's a slow time of year, and as soon as hockey gets started, they'll get them back. It's a student radio station, and ideally it should be run by students. I guess the people are just looking for something to do while they are locked out.

Compiled and photographed by Amanda Ash and Daniel Kaszor

8101 - 103 St.
Whyte Ave

stop in for a while

Busy new University President wants to make time for students

CHLOE PEDIO
Deputy News Editor

Change is in the air this fall as the U of A's new President settles into her position looking to make a difference in students' lives. Entering her third month as President, Dr. Indira Samarasekera says she's excited to finally see students returning to campus, breaking the monotony of work in the office.

"When you're in administration, there's really no break. You don't notice that you're going from July to August. You do notice September, because you see the students there and it reminds you why we're here: it's all about the students."

Prior to coming to Alberta, Dr. Samarasekera served five years as Vice-President (Research) at the University of British Columbia. Since she came into office in July, the new President has been busy trying to acclimatize herself to campus and participate in projects such as the school's planned expansion downtown. And, though she expects to get busier as the campus fills up this fall, she's making sure she makes time for the students.



HAPPY TO BE HERE New University President Indira Samarasekera.

"My advice to students is that these are the best four years of your life. ... You can't shut yourself in your room, or just study, because then you will not have a chance to learn about yourself or others."

**DR INDIRA SAMARASEKERA,
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**

"I really do want to meet a lot of students, so we've arranged a number of events," she says. "I've asked my office to schedule some chances for students to sign up and come and have breakfast or lunch, so we can sit around the table and just chat."

The event, called "A Day With the President," will take place once a month and be advertised on the University's website. It will work on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"It's really a chance to hear from the students, because as you come in as the President, you don't have a sense of campus life. I know the quality of education is really high, but [I'd like to know] about the

quality of the experience," she says. "What do they hope to get out of their education at the U of A?"

Dr. Samarasekera studied engineering in three countries, obtaining her undergraduate degree at the University of Ceylon, her master's at the University of California, and her PhD at UBC.

"My undergraduate experience was wonderful," she says. "I was in engineering, and you know what engineers are like. That part is exactly the same; I see the engineers and I think, 'Well, that's engineering, that's the culture, a lot of collegiality.'"

However, she did note a few key differences for today's students.

"When I was an engineering student, we didn't have computers. I did all my calculations on a slide rule; I bet you most engineers [today] don't know what that is or how to use it. So you can imagine what a different time that was," she explains.

Dr. Samarasekera has enjoyed her time in Edmonton since moving here; however, her commitment to

the University is her number one priority and that has kept her busy, she says.

"If I had a day off, I'd probably work," she jokes. "If it was a nice day I'd probably walk in the river valley and just think. I just need time to think, and its not often that you just have that kind of time."

Her dedication to her job is evident, and she hopes that students will make the most of their time at this institution, in and out of class.

"This is a chance for students to find out about the world and about other people and other cultures," she says. "I really emphasize the beyond-academic life as being as important as the academic life, and that you've got to find a way to balance those two."

"My advice to students is that these are the best four years of your life. ... You can't shut yourself in your room, or just study, because then you will not have a chance to learn about yourself or others. You learn about yourself when you are interacting with others."

SU President hopes campaign succeeds

FUNDING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CAUS has made 13 proposals in its submission. Many involve increased government funding, such as replacing the Alberta Student Loan program with non-repayable grants, increasing per-student base operating funding for schools to the highest in Canada, and lobbying for a dedicated postsecondary transfer from the federal government.

However, it also calls for a focus on making campaigns "more student-friendly," in part by ensuring that new construction adds space usable by students rather than simply research

space, and recommends doubling student membership on Institutions' Boards of Governors.

Because there are no undergraduate representatives on the steering committee—there are also no graduate or faculty representatives as the committee is comprised mainly of MLAs, school administrators and prominent business figures—CAUS sees a public campaign as its best shot at influencing its outcome.

Letterm expressed confidence that the campaign will have some success, but admitted that at this point, he's unable to get a clear sense of the

committee's direction.

"It's a mixed bag. We've met with some of the members, and some are more positive than others," he said.

"The process is still midway through, and we have some idea of the progress that's been made and some of the discussions that have been happening, but it's unclear as to what will actually be the recommendations from the committee."

The committee is expected to have recommendations ready for the government in time for a minister's forum scheduled for 31 October–2 November.

Campus Nightlife



campus bars: a service for students, staff, alumni, and guests

09.08.2005



POWERPLANT
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All shows are No Minors unless otherwise stated.
Doors for all shows open at 8 pm

Friday, September 9th

Week of Welcome presents Maple/Universal artist

Danny Michel

w/ AA Sound System, and Trevor Tchir.

\$10 in advance. No Minors.

Saturday, September 10th

Bud True Music Series kickoff . w/

**Krome, Tourist,
and Crop Circle**

FREE until 10 pm w/ ticket. \$7 after 10 pm.

\$3 bottles of Bud and Bud Lite each Sat night!

Saturday, September 17th

**RETROGRADE,
and SUPERSEED**

w/ guests Murder City Sparrows

\$7 @ the door

Sept 24 - Plainsay, El Cid, Hazeldean

Oct 12 - The Constantines, w/ guests

tba. All ages and licensed, more info to come soon!!

Oct 15 - Hootenany Tour, featuring Carolyn Mark, and more!

watch for our new Venues
website, late September:

www.su-venues.ca



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Happy Hour is 3-8 pm every day, w/ selected pints
\$3.75 and well hiballs \$3 @ each bar!



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THE NEW MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FRAGRANCES FROM KENNETH COLE.

KENNETH COLE
REACTION

U of A student rides the 'vomit comet'

ANDREW RENFREY
News Writer

When University of Alberta student Jeeshan Chowdhury got off the plane from his trip to France this summer, the first thing his parents asked was, "So, did you vomit?"

This is an odd query of someone just returning from Europe, but the PhD/MD student has been asked that same question a lot lately—and with good reason.

Chowdhury recently returned from two weeks in Bordeaux, France, participating in the European Space Agency's Student Parabolic Flight Campaign. The program invites university students from across the globe to conduct experiments during the experience of weightlessness or microgravity, and Chowdhury and his team, including Ben Sanders, Meghan Grant and Aaron Blanc, were the only Canadians afforded this unique opportunity.



UPSIDE DOWN Jeeshan Chowdhury shows his school colours in zero g. SUPPLIED

took off, we were warned about how easy it is to vomit on this plane," says Chowdhury. "You really can't predict who's going to be sick and who won't, so that level of unknown was really nerve-wracking."

To make matters worse, Chowdhury continues, the staff and pilots from the European Space Agency took bets on who they thought would get sick, and they picked the Canadian squad as one of the first teams to lose their lunch. With the experts betting against him, Chowdhury felt even more nervous, but the experience was nonetheless exhilarating, he says.

"You could hear the engines rev up, and the plane went into this really steep climb. I was holding a camera at the time and I could actually feel the weight of the camera getting heavier and it was hard to hold up. I looked across to some of my colleagues and would see their faces getting paler because the blood would begin to drain out of their heads. That would happen for about 20 seconds and then the pilot would say 'injection,' the plane would get quiet and then all of a sudden you would lift off of your seat."

Despite the bets against him,

Chowdhury did not succumb to the "vomit comet," and he wasn't sick during the entire experience. The feeling of weightlessness, he said, is one that he will never forget.

"It really is indescribable because it is unlike anything on Earth. The best thing about microgravity is feeling totally free. Just being able to float in the middle of the cabin was the best experience; it wasn't like floating in water, it was unlike anything else," he said.

Chowdhury and his team were conducting experiments on the effects of human vision during weightlessness, but because of the relatively small number of experiments, they were unable to reach a conclusion on the effects of zero g on the human eye. However, they did use their results to establish a better method that could be used for longer trials in the future. They found a number of things that could help scientists design further experiments, and are working to refine their equipment to look at vision in other ways.

The Canadian team will present their findings to the International Astronautical Congress held in Japan this October.

The Gateway joins fellow nerds around the world in wishing Star Trek a happy 39th birthday!



It was this day in 1966 that "The Man Trap" aired on NBC and Captain James Tiberius Kirk, Mr Spock, and the crew of the USS Enterprise beamed into the hearts of so many millions of people. We hope you'll join us today in pausing to honour and give thanks for Gene Roddenberry's incredible legacy.

THE GATEWAY
Living long and prospering since 1910

SU By-Elections

We are now accepting nominations for the Students' Union by-election to be held in several faculties on **September 29 and 30**. The positions available are listed below by faculty.

Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics

- 1 Students' Union Councillor Seat
- 1 General Faculties Councillor Seat

Arts

- 1 General Faculties Councillor Seats

Business

- 2 Students' Union Councillor Seats
- 1 General Faculties Councillor Seat

Education

- 2 Students' Union Councillor Seats
- 4 General Faculties Councillor Seats

Medicine and Dentistry

- 2 General Faculties Councillor Seats

Native Studies

- 1 Students' Union Councillor Seat
- 1 General Faculties Councillor Seat

Nursing

- 2 Students' Union Councillor Seats
- 2 General Faculties Councillor Seats

Open Studies

- 2 Students' Union Councillor Seats

Physical Education and Recreation

- 1 General Faculties Councillor Seat

Pharmacy

- 1 Students' Union Councillor Seat
- 1 General Faculties Councillor Seat

Rehabilitation Medicine

- 1 Students' Union Councillor Seat
- 1 General Faculties Councillor Seat

Faculté Saint-Jean

- 1 General Faculties Councillor Seat

Science

- 1 Students' Union Councillor Seat

Nomination Packages are available from 2-900 SUB, 3-02K SUB, or online at www.su.ualberta.ca/elections.

Nominations are due on September 19 at 6:00pm.

vote
STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2005

President speaks to enthusiastic crowd

WELCOME • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Does this look good or what?" Dr Samarasekera asked, amused by the display of University spirit.

Following the bandana incident, another orientation leader jumped the stage and popped a firefighter's hat onto her head, a prop used by the Faculté Saint-Jean. Lurking below stage, a member of the Faculty of Engineering held a plastic pirate's sword, waiting for an opportunity to give the President yet another prop; however, he was stopped before he ever made it on stage.

Despite the rowdy atmosphere and the over-exuberance of the crowd,

the President continued her speech, offering words of advice about going to university.

"Do you know what the most important function of your education is? It is to develop your personality, and your gifts, and your individual capabilities as people," she said.

"Find out where you fit in this big world, and make sure, make absolutely sure, that while you're here that you will allow someone out there, in a classroom, in a laboratory, to light a fire inside of you that just makes you so excited about your future and what you plan to do with your life."

As she concluded her speech, Dr

Samarasekera asked the audience one final question.

"Who are we?"

But before she could answer the rhetorical question, the Faculty of Engineering jumped in with yet another cheer, chanting: "We are, we are, we are the engineers!" The cheer was promptly followed by a plethora of cheers from other faculties, competing over each other's voices to represent their specific group, as they had been doing throughout the evening.

In the end, the President concluded her speech.

"So the answer to that question is: we are the University of Alberta."

MOVIE NIGHT

SNEAK PREVIEW

Available in the
Your Movie Library

7 PM SUBSTAGE

www.su.ualberta.ca

September 13 Silly Sci Fi
Hitchhikers Guide
Space Balls

September 20 Things could be worse ...
Falling Down
Office Space

September 26 A Tribute to Film Nore
The Maltese Falcon
Sin City

October 4 Not for the Children
The Family Guy, the movie
Southpark, the movie

October 11 Nostalgia Night
Transformers The Movie
The Great Muppet Caper

October 18 Wacky Existentialism
I ♥ Hukabees
Life Aquatic

October 25 Halloween
Nightmare before Christmas
Shaun of the Dead

November 1 Time Travel is not Straight Forward
Donnie Darko
Butterfly Effect

PLUS MORE MOVIES ALL YEAR LONG!



I WALK THE LINE Locked-out CBC employees catch up on the news during a slow point in their picketing downtown.

CBC, CJSR have a lot in common: Brown

LOOKOUT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There's a kind of sacred listener trinity between CBC, CKUA and CJSR; most people who listen to one of those stations also listen to the two others. Now that CBC's programming has drastically changed and been cut back, their listeners are coming to us."

Peter Brown, normally of CBC's *Radio Active*, agreed with Richel, and explained that common ties between the stations go beyond the listener base.

"There were already strong ties between CBC and CJSR," said Brown. "Daryl Richel has done a fair bit of work for CBC radio, so he has a good working relationship with many of us.

Several people now at CBC are former CJSR volunteers, so they know the people and the station well."

In Brown's case, the tie was Gilbert Bouchard, who hosts *Acultural Cocktail* on CJSR while also doing an arts column for *Radio Active*. He invited Brown to co-host the CJSR program during the lockout.

"I was delighted to accept the invitation," said Brown. "It was not only a chance to get back to doing some radio, but also to work again with a brilliant arts journalist. So for me it was as easy as saying yes."

CJSR plans to continue the broadcasts, including a weekly program featuring Portia Clark and Ron Wilson,

for as long as the CMG members are available. How long that will be, however, is still unknown, though Brown said there's reason for optimism that the lockout will end before too long.

"After two weeks of silence, the [CBC and the CMG] are talking again, and they've reached agreement on a number of issues. They've also continued talks through the weekend: another good sign," he said.

"I'm trying not to get my hopes up about how close the end is, but things are certainly moving in a positive direction, and it seems possible that we'll be back sooner rather than later. But of course, as one of my colleagues says, until there's a deal, there's no deal."

More students working during school, study says

JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

A university education is hard enough on its own, but according to a recent study, a record number of Canadian students are juggling school's pressures with those of an outside job.

The study, released by Scotiabank last month, revealed that 46.8 per cent of full-time students aged 20-24 held down jobs during the school year in 2004, up from 26.6 per cent in 1976. It also showed that, despite the extra income, average student debt loads have been rising as well, though they've leveled off in recent years.

Unsurprisingly, the study suggests the main reason for the increasing number of working students is the rising cost of postsecondary education. The sharpest increase came in the 1990s, when tuition costs were rising at their fastest rates.

The number of 15-19-year-old students working, a range that includes both high school and postsecondary students, dropped slightly to 35.2 per cent last year, but it's also well above the rates of the 1970s.

Samantha Power, Vice-President (External) of the U of A Students' Union, argued that the results of the study are a sign that high costs are compromising the quality of students' time in university.

"It's a big problem. The costs of education are so high that a lot of students can't focus on it," she said. "The primary job of students is to be students, but when you work too much, it takes your attention away from studies. So that leads to a lot of students extending their degrees to five years or longer."

However, the study suggested that financial need isn't the only reason behind the numbers. It noted that the numbers have been rising since the mid-1970s, before sharp tuition increases began, and that students in Québec, who pay the country's lowest fees, work slightly more than the national average.

"For many students, the opportunity for greater discretionary income appears to be a driving factor, particularly given their cast array of electronic toys and entertainment options, as well as the computer and telecommunication technologies required for educational and leisure purposes," the study said.

Power admitted that's a factor, but also said that many of these purchases are not simply optional luxuries for students.

"That's part of it, but the study shows sharp increases in working students in the 1980s when other costs [than tuition and fees], like computers, were increasing," she said. "I can't imagine going through a degree without a computer, but it was only recently that student loans started to cover them, so students had to turn elsewhere for funding."

Power also noted that the study did not specify the number of hours students were working, which is an important consideration in determining whether a job is detrimental to school.

"Other studies have shown that working eight or nine hours a week can actually help students, by giving them something to focus on," she said. "But once you get to 15 hours, it's a distraction and a real detriment."



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MATT FRESHER

MUSTACHES GALORE Justin Kehoe dressed up for the occasion as he welcomed a crowd of first-year students to the wacky ways of University at the annual Presidents' address last Tuesday.

The secret lives of Vice-Presidents

The Students' Union does lots of things. Here's how the VP (Student Life) and the VP (Operations and Finance) contribute.

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI
News Staff

In the world of student politics and the Students' Union, they occupy the middle ground in the consciousness of students. They aren't typically as well known as the SU President; however, unlike faculty representatives on Students' Council, most people have a vague idea that they exist—even if they can't pick them out of a crowd.

They are the four Vice-Presidents elected alongside the President to fill various portfolios. Here we introduce to you two of the VPs, in part one of two-part look at some of the goals they've formed and the challenges they've encountered in the first third of their term in office.

JUSTIN KEHOE, VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

Week of Welcome (WOW) is in full swing at the moment, but it's far from the only thing that VP (Student Life) Justin Kehoe wants to focus on this year. However, he's more than happy to allude to some of the differences he's made to the annual back-to-school bash in order to make it a better experience for all students, including those beyond the confines of the main campus.

"We're going to be having a few new things happen during WOW this year, including a BBQ at Campus Saint-Jean... and we'll be making a trip down to Augustana so we're making sure to reach out to other parts of the University," says Kehoe. "There's never been a WOW event at Campus Saint-Jean or Augustana before and there's never been any sort of direct outreach to them before... so we're trying to bring them into the fold this year."

"Also, we're going with three concerts instead of one, so we're able to give students more options to choose from and serving more students with what they like."

The changes that the fourth-year science student hopes to make during his term go beyond the biggest event in his portfolio to providing greater direction for key programming events and enhancing the relationship between the SU and its volunteers. It's something he knows a fair bit about after having volunteered his time for SU events ranging from Orientation and WOW to serving as a member of Students' Council.

"The SU is definitely reliant upon our volunteers, and improving our relationship with them isn't just about offering them some fancy discount card or more Kokanee hoodies," says Kehoe. "We need to figure out why people choose to volunteer with the SU and how we can better recruit and retain volunteers by making sure they're getting more out of the experience than it just being something to write down on their resumé. We need to make sure that we're not just using these people for our own means, but that they're getting something out of it as well."

Kehoe hopes to offer students a range of activities, ensuring that their experience at the U of A extends beyond academics and into the social sphere.

"I also want to do some programming analysis and look over our entire schedule of events and see how everything is working together, see what works and

what doesn't and why we do certain events, and develop a clear vision of what our presentation is supposed to achieve," he explains.

JASON TOBIAS, VICE-PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

While the VP (Operations and Finance) may have the most defined role of any of the executive members—being responsible for management and supervision of the SU's various business and services in addition to leading the development of the budget—it's arguably the position with the lowest profile. That's something that suits recent engineering graduate and current appointee Jason Tobias just fine.

"I don't have any particular desire to be high profile in this position, and I don't think that's what would be expected of me," says Tobias. "I think that people expect the job to get done and don't really care who does it or how it gets done, just as long as the job is done."

Being a former student councillor, Tobias has some experience working within the SU trying to affect change. However, he admits that even for him, there was a big adjustment trying to get a handle on all the information required to do his new job.

"[The SU] is a significant organization in terms of its scope. We employ about 180 people, we've got a \$9 million budget, and with that there's a lot of background information involved on why we do things, the way they've been done in the past, and problems that have been worked on in the past, where our momentum's taking us; reconciling previous perceptions with what's really going on has been the biggest challenge so far."

Despite the information overload aspect to the job, he has already set his sights on potential changes and areas in which he thinks the SU can grow revenues, while at the same time being sensible and not losing credibility for a few extra dollars.

"We currently have a sponsorship portfolio that gets us about \$120 000 in revenues every year, and I think we can do a lot better than that," says Tobias. "There are a lot of corporations out there that are very willing to talk business with us and are very interested in getting a piece of the student demographic."

"So our challenge is finding a way that we can get a hold of those revenues, striking a good balance between what students want and need out of their Students' Union and not turning ourselves into corporate shells."

This increased revenue could potentially mean that the cost to students to support the organization could decrease, without any corresponding decrease in services or business, even though one part of the organization is losing money.

"All of our businesses, with the exception of the Powerplant, are doing very well right now, so we are in a position to cut back on our student fees. I'm going to be exploring how we best do that and what method we use in order to make sure that's a tenable proposition not only for this year, but for future years as well," Tobias concludes.

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SHAHED MIRANI

WATERING THE SEEDS OF HOPE Ken Chilibeck's Earth Water hopes to be a significant contributor to aid programs.

Student raises money with water

Kori Chilibeck is selling bottled water to local markets and donating all the net profits to the UN for aid programs around the world

TASNEEM KARBANI
News Writer

The lack of access to clean drinking water is a dreadful reality for over a billion people worldwide, and that fact motivated one University of Alberta student to help those who need it.

Kori Chilibeck, a political science student at the U of A, is the founder of Earth Water International, an Edmonton-based bottled-water company. Earth Water aims to donate all of its net profits to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to be used towards water aid programs around the world.

Chilibeck's journeys through the terrains of over 30 developing countries made him aware of the dire water problem.

"I saw some pretty amazing things and I realized just how important a glass of fresh water is. If you add up AIDS and the next four worst diseases you can think of, lack of fresh water still kills more people than all those diseases put together. It makes [those diseases] look minor in comparison to just clean water," he said.

Chilibeck remembers selling his first bottle of Earth Water at Debaji's on 29 October of last year. From that point, it didn't take long for Earth Water to expand itself further out of Edmonton; it's currently sold in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario, from local organic markets to chains such as Safeway and Sobey's.

Earth Water's mandate has especially struck some chords with the ethnic local markets, Chilibeck said.

"The ethnic markets, like the Asian

and Indian markets around town, love it too. It hits home with a lot of people, because the money goes back to refugee agencies for water programs in countries they used to live in, or have visited recently, or where they have family," he explained.

"We'd like to be active in donating in every part of the world. A five per cent global market share would be the ultimate dream of Earth Water and if it [were] accomplished, it would mean more money donated to the UN than the top five contributing countries combined."

KORI CHILIBECK,
POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT

The business has really exploded, added Chilibeck, who explained that after only three months of operation, the UN allowed Earth Water to stamp the UNHCR logo on all its bottles.

While some customers have shown skepticism towards the UN's involvement in the project, Chilibeck feels otherwise.

"The World Food Program, UNHCR, and UNICEF are still the top three aid organizations in the world,"

Chilibeck said. "I still think that, in the end, [the UN] is still our best answer for some of the world's problems. It is definitely not perfect; it needs a lot of reforms, and it needs a lot of help."

Perhaps the largest obstacle facing Earth Water is overcoming Coca Cola's exclusive deal with the U of A that prevents Cole's competitors, such as Earth Water, from selling beverages on campus.

Still, Chilibeck is determined to reach the campus population by selling Earth Water to student groups who hold fundraising activities. Ideally, Chilibeck would like to have two Earth Water locations on campus—one in HUB and another in SUB.

"I'd like to ask Coke if that was possible: 'just give me two spots on campus,'" he said.

Meanwhile, Chilibeck has ambitious goals to have Earth Water on the shelves of every developed nation in the world, and ultimately become the number one private aid organization in the world in terms of donations.

"We'd like to be active in donating in every part of the world. A five per cent global market share would be the ultimate dream of Earth Water and if it [were] accomplished, it would mean more money donated to the UN than the top five contributing countries combined," he explained. "That would be neat."

In March, Earth Water will be available in Holland, Belgium, and Germany. The company is also preparing to venture into the United States, and target the Asian market as well, specifically in Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.



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Evacuees dying in LSU shelters

Average Canadian tuition increase lowest in 25 years

CHRIS DAY
Special to Canadian University Press

BATON ROUGE, La (SPECIAL TO CUP)—Crates of syringes, urine cups, medication and IV tubes surround clusters of wall-to-wall hospital beds in the Pete Maravich Assembly Centre (PMAC) on Louisiana State University's campus, where many victims of Hurricane Katrina are being treated.

Hundreds of military police are scattered at building entrances. Buses and helicopters continue to rush patients in and out of the building as teams of doctors and nurses from across the country frantically try to save lives.

"Once a patient is stable, we try to place them in a shelter," said April Keary, registered nurse with the New Mexico Disaster Assistance Team. There were two intensive care patients in the PMAC on Monday morning, along with 22 intermediate acute care patients. Disaster medical assistance teams have come from all over the United States.

Robert Alvey, temporary media coordinator for campus emergency facilities, confirmed that an unknown number of patients on campus have died. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is then responsible for the bodies. A refrigerated trailer was provided at the PMAC for such cases.

Evacuees were sent to a wide variety of shelters, ranging from the Port Allen Community Centre to the Houston Astrodome.

"This is 9/11 in slow motion," said LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe, of the worsening state of emergency during the week following the category four storm.

The PMAC is the largest acute care emergency facility in Louisiana. An



SAFE HAVEN A Katrina evacuee is tended to at Louisiana State University.

acute care facility is equipped to provide medical and surgical care for seriously ill or injured people.

Treating about 5000 patients in the past week, officials say the facility is playing a crucial role in saving the lives of evacuees hurt by Hurricane Katrina. Next door, the Carl M. Mudd Fieldhouse also meets the needs of evacuees. While the PMAC is operating as a temporary hospital, the fieldhouse is a care facility also lined with beds and equipment.

Originally set up as a 41-bed special needs shelter, the fieldhouse is now holding more than 400 patients and is equipped with a pharmacy, psychiatric ward and pediatric centre.

"This is the largest facility of its kind," said student government president Michelle Gieg. "This is one of the biggest things LSU has done in this hurricane effort."

University officials said it is uncertain how long the facilities will contain patients because of the variety of

different cases. Both centres are treating medical needs, feeding the hungry and helping stranded and lost evacuees reunite with family, but not without complications.

With so many state and federal organizations at work, many question who is in charge. Alvey said the effort is "absolutely a mishmash."

Initial management of both facilities came from the State Department of Social Services, with the State Department of Health and Hospitals providing the necessary medical equipment and manpower.

O'Keefe established an operations centre on Sunday to become the single point of contact for organizing resources and communications at the University.

Although the number of patients is constantly changing, the PMAC floor plan was modified six times during the past week to ensure a more organized emergency procedure.

ERIKA MEEKE
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—As Canadian university students head back to class this week, a new Statistics Canada study has found that undergraduates will face the lowest average fee increase in more than 25 years.

The study, released on 1 September, found that tuition will rise by an average of 1.8 per cent in the 2005/06 academic year. Undergraduates can now expect to pay an average of \$4214 in tuition fees, up from \$4140 last year.

Although this is the smallest increase since the 1978/79 academic year, when fees rose only 1.5 per cent to an average of \$627, student groups point out that the average tuition fee has more than tripled since 1990/91.

"A small percentage increase is still a significant dollar increase to students when tuition is already so high," said Philippe Ouellette, National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

The modest increase is attributed to tuition freezes in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and Newfoundland and Labrador. In addition, British Columbia has capped its tuition increases to the rate of inflation, while in Nova Scotia, increases are restricted to four per cent each year.

Despite the cap on fee increases, students in Nova Scotia will again pay the highest tuition fees in the country, Ontario, which has long been at or near the top in education costs, has dropped to fifth in average tuition.

"Two years without tuition fee hikes in Ontario has improved Ontario's affordability standing relative to other

provinces," said Jesse Greener, Ontario Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "But we need to be clear; it's not that affordability in Ontario has improved, it's just that other provinces have become so much worse."

In Saskatchewan, universities have granted students a tuition freeze without making any significant cutsbacks to programs or services thanks to \$6.4 million in additional funding from the provincial government to prop up the universities' tuition freeze.

However, University of Saskatchewan Vice-President (External) Barbara Pollock said the freeze could not be maintained without additional funds from the provincial government.

"Everyone is looking for a way to keep education accessible for students, but we have to keep up with modern needs," she said.

Ian Boyko, Campaigns and Government Relations director for the Canadian Federation of Students, called on the federal government to help the provinces offset the loss of revenue from tuition fee freezes.

Although Prime Minister Paul Martin promised during his election campaign to restore \$7 billion to postsecondary education, he has yet to follow through on this promise.

"We want to make sure voters remember that during the next election campaign," said Boyko.

Statistics Canada also revealed steeper tuition increases for international and graduate students. On average, graduate students will pay 4.6 per cent more this year, while international student fees have risen by 8.5 per cent.

• With files from Steve Evenden (Brock Press).

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ACADEMIC INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Announcing Academic Information and Communication Technologies

Over the summer, Computing and Network Services (CNS) completed a structural reorganization and was renamed Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT).

The reorganization was informed by feedback received from the campus community and our staff, together with the increasing need for more efficient and effective support to enhance teaching, learning and research activities.

Our vision is to align ICT functionality, capability and services with the University's Academic Plan. Our long-term strategic direction is focused on core services, improving our internal environment, building a learning organization, creating an excellent client experience, leveraging technology and technological innovation, building better partnerships and collaborations, and developing a sustainable business model. The new structure will also allow us to focus more on e-learning and make necessary changes to our e-learning services and support.

The flexibility gained through the realignment of services will allow us to better tailor our support to the needs of the academic community. We will be working closely with the Faculty-Based ICT Steering Committee to ensure that faculties receive the support and services required to enhance their teaching, learning and research activities.

The renaming of Computing and Network Services to Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT) emphasizes our focus on support to the academic community.

We are confident that this reorganization will prove to be positive for the entire campus community.

If you have questions or concerns, call Marika Bourque, Associate CITO and Executive Director of AICT, at 492-4767.

The reorganization announcement is available at:

www.ualberta.ca/aict/news/reorg.html

McGill Muslims in need of prayer space

JOSH GINSBERG
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—The McGill University administration's failure to provide a prayer space is causing some Muslims to question whether they will remain at the school or transfer to a university where the requirements of their religion are easier to meet.

Some McGill students, like second-year economics major Aysha Younis, say they're beginning to seriously question their future at the renowned institution.

"I was so frustrated, I was thinking I'd much rather be attending Concordia University than McGill University, because [prayer] is such a big part of my everyday routine and it's just so hard for me to do it on campus," she said.

On 31 May, the McGill administration evicted the Muslim Student Association from their space in the basement of Peterson Hall on the McGill campus. Three months later, there is little indication that it will be replaced any time soon.

The University maintains its assertion that, as a secular institution, it has no obligation to provide space for religious purposes, while the MSA says it is an issue of accommodating diverse student need and of basic human rights.

With no progress in sight, many of McGill's devout Muslims have taken to praying outdoors on campus—both as a temporary solution to the lack of a room, and to make a symbolic statement they felt went unheeded at the negotiating table.

"We are leaving a buffer zone for the admin to choose the right decision in helping the McGill Muslim community, and we're going to continue with that. We'll pray outside until we



CHARLES MOSTOLLER, THE MCGILL DAILY/CP
DISPLACED Muslim students at McGill protest their university's failure to provide a prayer space after they were evicted from their previous room.

see that type of solution," said MSA President Nafay Choudhury, who, like all devout Muslims, must pray five times daily.

Anthony Masi, McGill's interim provost and a principle negotiator for McGill on the prayer space issue, denied that any human rights violation has occurred. He maintained that the University only granted the MSA their previous space on a temporary basis, and that the room is needed to ease overcrowding on campus.

He said that he has been working with the MSA to find an off-campus location independent from the University, and stressed that McGill would not be making a financial contribution to this effort, but would help search for donors.

While Choudhury said the MSA would be amenable to this solution in the long run, it will take time to coordinate logistics, and he said an interim space is needed immediately.

"Come end of September, October, it gets pretty cold outside," he said.

Over the summer, the Students' Society of McGill University and the MSA presented a document to Masi asking him to recognize SSMU's granting of a temporary space as a goodwill gesture.

The University never signed the document and MSA spokesperson Iqbal Isa said this crippled the SSMU's ability to help.

"SSMU is in a difficult predicament. They want to help the MSA, however they don't want the admin to shift the buck to the SSMU ... It's a matter of the admin not willing to accommodate someone willing to accommodate the MSA," she said.

Meanwhile, Younis is left pondering the quality of her education.

"If McGill's not going to facilitate the process, it makes me think about what kind of education I'm getting at this school."

Older students in Montréal demand bus fare equality

TRACY LINDSEMAN-JARVIS
The Link

MONTREAL (CUP)—Montréal students over 25 may see a glimmer of hope in their long-fought battle for reduced public transit fare, already de rigueur in other major Canadian cities.

Montréal university students' unions have banded together and are demanding that both current mayor Gérald Tremblay and mayoral candidate Pierre Bourque promise to ante up.

"In 2001, Tremblay promised us we would get a student bus pass for all full-time students, no matter their age," said Concordia Student Union Vice-President Kate Boushel.

In Toronto, students who attend a university that belongs to the Toronto Transit Commission's VIP plan can benefit from the student monthly pass rate, regardless of age. It's the same in Vancouver, where all full-time students at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University can obtain a discount monthly U-Pass that gives them access to the city's public transit system.

According to Boushel, 45 per cent of Concordia students and 44 per cent of Université de Montréal students are over 25, meaning the current transit fare situation represents just over half the student population.

"To have it limited to students between 18 and 25 is discriminatory," said Boushel.

As it stands, full-time students between the ages of 18 and 25 are eligible to obtain bus and metro passes for \$32.50 per month with the Carte

Privilege. Students over 25 are lumped in with the rest of the non-student world and have to pay \$61 a month, regardless of financial status.

The Coalition Régionale des Étudiants de Montréal (CREM) is composed of students' unions and associations from Université de Montréal, McGill University, Polytechnique, Université de Québec à Montréal and Concordia University. CREM and groups like it have been fighting for a more universal student transit fare for over 15 years.

According to Boushel, Société de Transport de Montréal President Claude Dauphin has said it would cost the STM \$9 million a year to include students over 25 in their reduced fare program. Though the STM is operating with a \$6 million deficit, it's a far cry from the \$20 million deficit they were originally anticipating, and CREM says they can afford it.

Boushel said university association representatives went to Tremblay's Union des Citoyens de l'Île de Montréal congress in late August and encouraged the mayor to take a stand on the issue. She added that CREM passed a resolution at the municipal party's congress that mandates l'UCM to provide reduced transit fare for all full-time students regardless of age.

She says they're also planning on visiting ex-mayor Pierre Bourque, who is running against Tremblay in this year's municipal elections, to pass a resolution mandating Bourque's Vision Montréal team to do the same.

A press conference on the issue is expected in the next coming weeks.

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OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • Thursday, 8 September, 2005

Powerplant is nothing but a drain under SU management

SEEMING AS HOW I DIDN'T MAKE IT to this fine campus of ours until 2002, the sight of a vacant Powerplant is nothing new to me. As a matter of fact, I really wouldn't recognize our main campus bar if it wasn't chiefly populated with empty chairs and tables, save for the occasional group of regulars drinking coffee or beer, depending on whether the time says am or pm.

I also wouldn't recognize it if it didn't bleed money like a hemophilic leper. Ever since I got to this campus, the 'Plant has lost a minimum of \$20 000 every year, including over \$58 000 last year, despite my own significant contributions to their bottom line. The 'Plant loses so much money, in fact, most of the experienced ones among us have given up the beautiful illusion that it might one day crawl into the black again.

Now, this wouldn't be a problem if the 'Plant was some obviously unsuccessful business venture, like, say, a cell phone accessory store. No, if all it sold were facepales and funny ring tones, I'd probably applaud its downfall. Instead, this is a bar.

University students, despite what studies say, are probably the most reliable drinkers of any demographic outside alcoholics. Between frat folk, Listeries, student groups, faculty and your average, everyday student who likes to have an occasional beer, there are enough semi-regular alcohol consumers to keep Scholar's, Duke's, Avenue Pizza, the Garneau Pub and a good chunk of Whyte Ave as quite possibly Edmonton's most profitable business ventures. No, the Powerplant loses money because its managers—the Students' Union, not the actual poor souls who they force to run it—are morons.

To whitt, in last week's Gateway, Vice-President (Operations/Finance) Jason Tobias explained that, essentially, the reason that the 'Plant loses money is because prices are too high. The reason prices are too high is because the SU has decided they are our moral guardians, and don't want to lower prices because "we don't want to encourage binge drinking," according to Tobias.

Perhaps it's just the beer talking here, but this reasoning is utter horseshit. One could, of course, point to their continued sale of junk food, or, you know, cigarettes in SUBmart, and question their moral authority on this particular issue, but that's beside the point. The SU, a pan-political organization that is supposed to be representing students, shouldn't be taking moral positions, especially not moral positions that are affecting their bottom line. University students, presumably—though the SU seems to disprove this fact at every available opportunity—are smart enough to make their own decisions, and should be considered responsible enough to live with the consequences thereof. They certainly don't need an organization which actively loses the money they provide in order to protect their "best interests."

On top of all this, their standard defence from their own stupidity—that the 'Plant is a service to students, not a business, and therefore it's okay if it loses money—is entirely nonsensical while the 'Plant continues to sit in the red. The 'Plant isn't losing money because of some anti-tooth fairy who appears every night to raid the cash box—it's losing money because no one actually goes there. I don't see what service you're providing, other than perhaps minimum-wage jobs for students, when almost none of the people who are ostensibly benefiting from the service actually use it. Though perhaps I'm somewhat antiquated when I assume a service should actually, you know, serve somebody.

Look, there are a lot of reasons why the 'Plant loses money, but not one good reason as to why it should. The SU can hide behind moral authority or some half-brained notion of "serving students," but the bottom line is, the bottom line of one of their main responsibilities is performing patriotically, and they can either find some solution or wallow in their own ineptitude a little longer. Either way, it's time they stopped with the bullshit.

DAVID BERRY
Managing Editor

LETTERS

Phil Head gets it right; try-hards get it wrong

Thanks to Phil Head for saying what needed to be said ("Science class questions earn you hate, shame," 1 September).

If only he had extended it to other faculties. God you people are annoying. Even if discussion is encouraged in Arts classes, it doesn't mean you have an obligation to be a pretentious, try-hard asshole. We all want to feel that we're smart—we're the same as you—but please show it by doing well on your papers and exams, not by thinking up the longest sentences or questions with the biggest words you can.

I've got a good rule of thumb for you to ensure that you're asking valuable questions: If your first thought is about what people around you will think about your question or comment, then don't ask it. You're not talking for the right reasons.

We need some sort of word or sound that others in the class can call out when an asshole of this kind pipes up. His at them, or tap your pens on your paper. Anyways, thanks Phil.

MARK BELLAMY
Arts III

Pubic hair isn't appropriate content for the Gateway

Re: Tim Peppin's article ("Stop beating around the bush—cut your grass," 1 September).

My God, Mr. Peppin! Is this such an issue-free campus that we are

left to discuss the state of students' pubic hair? Is this really the drivel which occupies your university-educated mind?

As if young, new-to-campus students do not already have enough insecurities to fill up their backpacks! Your self-righteous proselytizing on free form pubic hairdos is irritating at best. You say: "nobody likes a robust thatch." I say: "big hairy deal."

LESLEY BALDWIN
Grad Studies III

Hair is still sexy down south, Peppin

This is in regards to Mr. Peppin's public hair article ("Stop beating around the bush—cut your grass," 1 September).

Until very recently, I ran a male stripper service called "Full Monty Strips" and, as you can imagine, all of the dancers were willing to go all the way and were often requested to do so.

The number one request from women was a guy "who did not shave and trim his pubes." They thought that "looked gay," or was "prepubescent and disgusting," or "Michael Jackson's fantasy, not mine." The consensus: if men have a forest, they should very gently trim and then, otherwise leave it alone—it's not sexy.

That's from the female point of view, and we are talking thousands of women over several years.

I am a gay man, and among my friends it is considered to be one of the "biggest turnoffs" to get with a guy who is all razored-back, whether the pubes or the dick.

I personally think it looks ridiculous to have a public haircut—when I see them in the locker room, I try

not to laugh.

I live in New York City—where things are very different in Canada?

KARL WILDER
New York, New York

The Powerplant could be the best bar around

Hey Gateway, I'm just writing in regards to your recent news article ("SU budgets for Powerplant: to lose \$30 000," 1 September) to say that the Powerplant has the potential to be the best bar available to U of A students.

It's relatively large, has separate rooms, and a stage. It's also right in the middle of a campus of 30 000 students. This seems like a bar-owner's dream.

The fact that the SU can't make the Powerplant profitable—or even popular, for that matter—given these advantages shows that there's something seriously wrong with their business strategy.

They need to start building some loyalty from students. They need to invest in the Powerplant. I wouldn't mind a deficit at all if it was because of efforts to popularize nights at the Powerplant or for advertising.

I'd love to see the Powerplant turn into a good party spot—all it needs is some common sense.

LUCY WONG
Arts III

Dave Berry is awesome; fangirl needs glasses

Hi Dave Berry, I'm a first year arts student, and now how know how much you love us first-years, so I decided this letter may come of some

interest to you ("Stereotypes are an effective coping mechanism," 1 September).

I opened a copy of the Gateway today and started reading the first article with the best-looking writer's picture, and I just want to say I absolutely loved your voice. It was perfectly, brutally honest and fucking hilarious! And I know saying "fucking" isn't bad, because you wrote it in your column, and that means it's OK.

I especially loved the last bit when you talk about faculty-specific stereotypes (eg—that "science is full of anal-retentive hard-ons"), although I don't appreciate that you didn't say anything about what I assume is your faculty—nursing. Anyway, I've rambled on enough, so I'm off to read whatever else this Gateway thing has to offer me.

I'm looking forward to more of your stuff. Can you please talk professors? No one seems to say much about them.

REENA HERIAN
Arts I

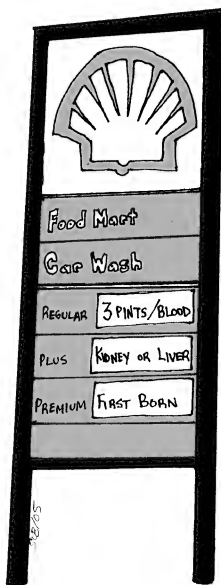
Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise inoffensive in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Hand-written letters must be legible, written in blue or black pen, and in English.

All letters should be free of stains. Seriously.



Will the US rebuild New Orleans?



MICHAEL
FOWLEY

\$100 billion dollars.

The other option is abandonment, the re-location of more than a million people, and the loss of an epicentre of American commerce, culture and tourism. The birthplace of jazz would become the ghost town of blues.

If I know America, they will rebuild. It's hard to blame them, either. Abandonment looks like giving up and, as Vietnam has shown us with painful clarity, America doesn't give up. But before they build dykes to heaven and drain Lake New Orleans, they should look at the opportunity facing them. The opportunity to rebuild an American city is a chance to fundamentally change the future.

Starting almost from scratch, New Orleans has the opportunity to redesign a city with current ideas and technologies. It could build a stronger economy and community with ideas like sustainable communities, green buildings, renewable energy technology, advanced transit, and proper waste disposal. They could even update travel routes for goods, even the health conditions and provide shelter for future flood events. It could be a real-life game of *Sin City*.

But who I am kidding? People need homes now, and the city is likely to build out of control like an episode of *Trading Spaces*. What will undoubtedly rise from under the floodwaters will be a city even less organized than America's War on Terrorism, more polluted than Mexico and at risk of getting beaten up by another hurricane with a wimpy name.

Whatever happens to New Orleans will truly show the cloth American spirit is made of, and ultimately what the First World values. Is the promise of greatness and need to restore the city of jazz undeniable in the face of the risk to its returning citizens? Are the costs of clean-up and reconstruction unbearable at the risk of a million homeless?

To be honest, I can't wait to see the answers to those questions. But who knows, maybe *National Geographic* has already figured it out.

Devastation and neglect in New Orleans explained by war in Iraq and racism



TESS
ELSWORTHY

Four years ago, the American government reacted to a massive act of terror in New York with logistical swiftness. And yet, this past month, they failed to properly evacuate New Orleans and the surrounding areas for Hurricane Katrina—neglect which led to the deaths of hundreds, possibly thousands of people. On the fourth anniversary of 9/11, another national tragedy, Americans are comparing the federal reaction to each of these crises.

President Bush admitted last week that, "It's as if the entire Gulf Coast were obliterated by the worst kind of weapon you can imagine." We might think that, in preparation for such war-like devastation, the American federal government might have pulled some of those troops out of Iraq and sent them home to properly evacuate the thousands of people who were left to rot in their homes and in the Superdome.

It's hard not to notice that most of the bodies lying in the flooded streets of New Orleans are black, and that the majority of survivors left swimming in raw sewage and battery acid are also African-American. Call me Captain Coincidence, but I'll offer that this is no accident. There's no clearer way to observe the consequences of racial fault lines in the United States and the meaning of class than to compare the responses to New Orleans and 9/11.

All levels of government had clearly anticipated the arrival of a storm that could potentially kill thousands of people. Instead of moving everyone to safety, as China recently did for a lethal typhoon, state and federal officials issued a warning that effectively left every citizen to fend for her or himself. Perhaps this incident will teach them

that privatizing emergency responses such as this one is—gasp!—not as efficient or effective as that old real method of guiding a public evacuation.

The individualized protocol of evacuation displayed the fact that to be poor in America is dangerous. To be economically marginalized in the United States—a category in which people of colour are absolutely overrepresented—already entails increased danger to one's health on the job, increased vulnerability to sexual violence, imprisonment, exposure to pollution and reduced access to healthcare and proper housing. I have to say, though, that being left to die in a natural disaster because they couldn't afford a ticket out of town really takes the cake.

The federal government may as well have waved a big foam middle finger at poor African-Americans in New Orleans—hey, maybe there's one floating around the Superdome.

Looting, of both groceries and weapons, has overwhelmed the city, attracting almost more attention than the storm itself. The types of looting that endanger the community—such as mugging, or theft of weapons or

dangerous goods—are appalling.

Yet when it comes to food, or even costly items being stolen from big-box stores, I have to wonder what anyone expected a desperate population abandoned by those in power to do? Most petty looters are no doubt stocking up on pilfered jewelry or electronics because they lost everything and know that they won't be able to expect much from a federal government that left them to die in the first place.

In the end, there are some blunt and politically simple answers to the question of why there was not more aid allotted for this crisis. To reiterate what many have already said, more would have been done for a predominantly white community.

Secondly, as one former Clinton official told *Der Spiegel*, "By 2003, the federal funding for the flood control project essentially dried up as it was drained into the Iraq war." It would have been nice to see that cash invested in "Operation Rescue our own citizens from a hurricane" instead, but alas, such a program might have distracted them from controlling Iraq's oil.

less joke which had no clear political point.

While we at the Gateway feel people can be too uptight about what can and can't be made light of, this cartoon was clearly—after the full scope of the story was made plain—over the line.

With us, we also should give a sack beating to the Bush administration for, you know, being so unprepared for the hurricane that thousands of people died and continue to die because of malnutrition.

DAN KASZOR

The *Burlap Sack* is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.



This beating goes to the Gateway.

Last week we printed an editorial cartoon that made light of the fate of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

At the time that the cartoon was green-lit for print, Katrina appeared to be the end of what was a hyperbolic and sometimes over-reported hurricane season, where it seemed that the major loss to New Orleans was going to be measured in property damage.

However, in light of the massive human loss from the hurricane and its after-effects, we have to give ourselves a sack beating for making such a taste-

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Alberta should have been prepared for Wabamun Lake



SCOTT
LILWALL

When I was in elementary school, most of my teachers had a traditional assignment usually entitled, "What I Learned On My Summer Vacation." They were always small one-page affairs that would usually expound on the importance of leaving your food in a raccoon-free area, or how a starfish inserted in to your sister's sleeping bag can provide an hour's solid entertainment.

These assignments were, of course, busy work—assigned by teachers who knew their students still were not the "real" work. While these assignments can be dismissed as such, that doesn't mean that it isn't important to reflect on what we have learned in the summer months. No one could benefit from this respect more than our provincial government.

For those of you who have spent the summer with your eyes seen shut and your ears packed with dirt (which I wouldn't recommend, personally), the big news at the moment is, of course, the destruction by Hurricane Katrina—notably, the devastated city of New Orleans. The vast majority of the city was flooded when the hurricane overwhelmed the city's levee and pumping systems. Since the flooding, government organizations and disaster-relief charities have been scrambling to arrange the rescue of stranded survivors, as well as gathering food, medical treatment and housing for the hundreds of thousands who had been

evacuated or rescued. Observers have pointed out that the lack of planning on the part of the municipal, state and federal governments have surely added to the magnitude of the suffering in the city.

Closer to home, a little over a month ago, this province had a disaster of its own. While not near the scale of damage and human suffering that goes on south of us, the CN train derailment that leaked toxic chemicals into Lake Wabamun can certainly be classified as an environmental disaster, with a dangerous mix of bunker oil and other harmful chemicals leaking into the lake, which is a popular vacation spot and home to many people. While these two disasters are vastly different from each other in many, many ways, both underscore an important point—preparation is the key when it comes to any disaster, natural or man-made.

**Alberta is oil country;
the stuff literally comes
out of the ground all
over the place.**

**We should damned
well be prepared for an
oil spill.**

Wabamun is an example of the damage that can be caused by a lack of proper planning. After the initial delay before CN even attempted to contain the spilled bunker oil, containment and clean-up efforts were stunted by the lack of "specialized equipment" that neither CN nor the province's environmental agencies had on hand. Some of the necessary equipment had to be brought in from Vancouver,

while more and more oil and dangerous chemicals were leaching into the lake. The question that we must ask ourselves is, "Why?"

Let us take a moment to remember where it is that we live—Alberta is oil country; the stuff literally comes out of the ground all over the place. We should damned well be prepared for an oil spill. We should have the equipment and expertise to handle a situation like this, because sooner or later, it will happen. Working as a summer student for an oil pipeline company these past few months, I know for a fact that the company I worked for had a number of VAC-trucks and other equipment in the Edmonton area that would be useful in containment of the spill. Instead of the provincial government having the right commitment at their disposal, or using that of the countless oil companies working in the province, the crucial containment of the spill was put on hold, resulting in a more difficult clean-up job, a hefty price tag and, worst of all, greater damage to the wildlife, people and environment of the Lake Wabamun area.

We live in a region with an industrial economy; as a result, we will have industrial accidents. There is no way to avoid that fact. All we can do is be prepared—do what we can to prevent these accidents and, when that fails, have a clear, quick and effective plan for dealing with the aftermath. At the moment, the province doesn't have its act together when it comes to dangerous oil and chemical spills, at least not if we use the Lake Wabamun incident as a measuring stick.

We cannot afford to be caught with our pants down around our ankles again. If we are, we might find ourselves knee-deep in oil and with no way out.

We all need Canadian history



KRISTINE
OWRN

is located in a geographical region known as the Canadian Shield, there's some winter festival there that involves a giant anthropomorphic snowman, poutine is delicious, and something about *coureurs des bois* and Indians.

Given the amount of time we spent learning about France and the Revolution, you think they could have thrown in a month or two on French Canadian history. We had concepts of multiculturalism drilled into us from before we were old enough to understand the concept of culture—I remember my school holding "multicultural days" in kindergarten—and yet no one can be bothered to teach us about one of the dominant cultures of our own country.

It's a well-known fact that ignorance breeds contempt, and as long as we Anglophones are taught nothing but the most basic, stereotype-breeding facts about 25 per cent of our population, Canada's two dominant cultures will never be able to coexist without threats of separatism.

My time in Québec City this summer taught me a lot about Québec that I otherwise never would have had the opportunity to learn. Perhaps most importantly, I came to realize just how different the province is politically, socially, historically, and culturally from the Canada most Anglophones know. I don't know much about Québec's education system, but if they learn as little about English Canada as we do about French Canada, then it's perfectly understandable why separatism is gaining ground again. After all, we westerners like to think we're pretty damn alienated from the rest of Canada. Imagine how much that feeling would intensify if it were linked to language and culture instead of just economics.

Stop and think about it for a second:

If you grew up in Alberta, how much did you learn about Québec's history or culture in public school? If your education was anything like mine, you probably came out of grade twelve with the following knowledge: the French were defeated by the British on the Plains of Abraham, most of Québec

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Celebrities alluring, but nothing more than ordinary people

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's visit to Edmonton is no reason for excitement



ADAM
GAUMONT

Unless you've been too busy caring about important issues lately, you've undoubtedly heard that Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie—those mega-wattage meteorites of celebrity-ness—will be slumming into our humble northern neighbourhood anytime now. When this happens, it will undoubtedly take a natural disaster no less devastating than Hurricane Katrina to dislodge the Hollywood duo—now apparently called “Branjelina”—from the front pages of our newspapers.

We have already witnessed the ground-shaking effects that Branjelina's gravitational pull has on our relatively weak galactic system here in Edmonton: when they came only as close as Calgary, a couple of our radio stations put up a \$50 000 bounty for their heads.

Well, OK, they just wanted to get them in for an interview, but the offer had essentially the same effect: because of fears for the safety of the two-headed super-entity (and because Boba Fett was reportedly sighted in Drumheller), the radio stations revoked their offer, and even donated \$10 000 of the prize money to the relief effort in New Orleans.

Now, as generous as that sounds, it should be pointed out that the radio stations in question—96X and K-Rock—are both owned by the currently rebranding and expanding NewCap Radio corporation. As such, those from the conspiracy theorist school might suspect that it was all just a publicity stunt for these stations, with the cancellation of the “contest” never in doubt. If that is the case, then I guess it worked, because I just mentioned their names. I feel used.

The point is that we have to remember that Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, the Queen, and everyone else are all just human beings when it all comes down to it. They all eat, they all sleep, and they all take huge, greasy shifts.

More to the point, it's difficult to deny the allure of the Hollywood duo. After all, most guys will admit that Brad Pitt is dreamy, and Angelina Jolie is pretty hot too, in her own freaky, used-to-date-Billy-Bob-Thornton, baby-snatching kind of way. And that movie they just made, *Mr and Mrs Smith*? I heard it's pretty rad,

too. And man, you gotta admit, Brad Pitt was pretty good in *A River Runs Through It*, even though he wasn't the main character. Oh, and *Fight Club* was fuckin' awesome! I never did get around to seeing *Tomb Raider*, though.

Oh, just look at me: I'm starting to catch it too. That's why it's important that we try really, really hard not to care when they do come here. It's hard, because we're told by just about every media source out there that this is more important than the Queen's visit, and we all know how big of a frickin' deal they made out of that this spring. They even named our perfectly good highway after her! I'm sure she doesn't care; I'm sure we could have just not named it after her and she wouldn't have said, “Hey, what the fuck? Why didn't you guys name a highway after me, jerks? That's it, this confederation thing is off!” But I digress.

The point is that we have to remember that Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, the Queen, and everyone else are all just human beings when it all comes down to it. They all eat, they all sleep, and they all take huge, greasy shifts.

So keep that in mind the next time you wait around at a trendy restaurant or major tourist attraction for six hours hoping for a picture or maybe just an autograph, only to have them walk by and not even notice you, like you didn't even exist, and then cry yourself to sleep, only to do it all over again the next day. Loser.

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Parking Services' uncompromising policies increase costs and frustration



NATASHA DANG

If I ever have to hear the words, "I'm sorry, it's against our policy," again, I think I'm going to be sick. Literally. I will vomit all over the place. How many times have you walked into a store or called an organization on the phone with a request—however reasonable—only to have that request declined on grounds of "policy?"

While I'm not quite enough of a loser to have time to keep formal track of this statistic, I would be willing to bet that the answer would be, well, lots of times. For instance, just the other day, I had an extraordinarily thought-provoking run-in with our friendly neighborhood campus Parking Services.

Although Parking Services has long boasted a reputation akin to that of a dragon or mythical monster terrorizing the campus population with parking ticket horrors and exorbitant parking rates, this past August was my first brush with the ruthless transit overlords that operate from the subterranean bowels of Lister Hall.

I've had my share of warnings—apparently Parking Services has been gouging students so effectively for years that they've earned a reputation blacker than any in Shakespeare—but never an actual incident. A professor in my first year once gravely advised the class that Saskatchewan Drive was the best place on campus to get parking tickets. Why? Simply because tickets on Saskatchewan Drive are given and administered by the City of Edmonton and not the, um,

witches in Parking Services.

Somehow, I never quite believed any of the rumours—I mean they always seem so peppy and chirpy when they're taking your deposit and monthly parking fees. Where could people have come up with such vile and disparaging ideas about our friends in Parking Services? I never believed any of it—until it happened to me.

I have the misfortune of being in a program that starts classes a week to ten days earlier than the majority of programs on main campus—which means that I start school in the last few days of August rather than the first few of September. At this point, you're probably thinking: so what? What do a few days here and there matter? The answer is: quite a bit, apparently. Maybe not to you and me, but in the twisted world of Parking Services, those few days make all the difference.

Where could people have come up with such vile and disparaging ideas about our friends in Parking Services?

If you're in a program with conventional start and end dates—undergraduate Science or Arts, for instance—there's no problem. You walk in swinging your arms, snapping your gum, whistling a tune, and pick up your Fall/Winter permit that runs September to April and walk out, all without losing a step.

However, for those in programs with early start dates, it's not so simple. For example, I need a Fall/

Winter pass, too, but I need one that starts 29 August instead of 1 September. So I bought a conventional Fall/Winter September-to-April permit for over \$55 a month. It covered most of the year, but left me with three days in August without parking. The going daily parking rate on campus is \$10 without a monthly pass, meaning that it would cost me a whopping \$30 simply to park my for those three days of August, even though I was a monthly pass holder and had been for ages! This, even to a girl who'll spend \$300 on leather boots, simply doesn't make economic sense.

I decided to drop by the Parking Services office, thinking—naïvely—that they might be able to offer me some sort of reasonable solution. When I explained the situation, what the nice lady said was that I had three options: a) I could buy daily parking permits on campus for \$10 a day, or b) she could sell me a three-day permit for \$30, or c) I could buy a Spring/Summer parking pass for \$55 for the entire month of August, which would conveniently cover those last three days.

Oddly enough, this didn't solve my problem. Due to "policy," they could not offer me, or any of the hundreds—if not thousands—of students with early start dates, reasonably priced extensions on our Fall/Winter passes.

The point here is not solely to illustrate that Parking Services is in league with Satan, but also to suggest that policy has somehow trumped rationality and reason. On virtually every occasion where a special request is involved, reasonable or not, that is not delineated in an organization's policy, the request will almost certainly be declined. If the Enlightenment was the Age of Reason, then this is the Age of Policy—and it's definitely a step back.



A PARKING PERMIT God help you if yours doesn't extend over your term.

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Powerplant failing for good reason



ROSS
PRUSAKOWSKI

It is, with apologies to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, the elephant in the room of student politics. Everyone would prefer to ignore it, but it's too conspicuous to be perpetually overlooked. Looking back, though, it seems that more than a few have tried—and left successive regimes to clean it up. It is the financial mess called the Powerplant.

However, it seems that after being run based upon unrealistic expectations and without vision for the better part of the last decade—during which time the 'Plant has lost more than \$130 000—the Students' Union seems to be finally taking a more pragmatic approach to tending this white elephant. While the transformation from money pit to moneymaker will be a laborious process that extends far beyond most students' tenure at the University, the last few executives we've elected have started to pull the 'Plant back on course.

The opportunistic addition of Ship Night—no matter how many Listerites give the ol' heave ho in the head—has been a nice push back into the black for a least one night when the 'Plant would otherwise have been swimming in red. Taken together with the system installed last year to actually track traffic and revenue by the hour, live music on Saturdays, and actually producing a budget that reflects the realities of the business, it seems that the elephant has not only been noticed, but is actually being cared for.

Granted, the changes and adjustments that have been made would have been in place at most other business from the beginning, but every step the SU makes towards the 'Plant turning a profit and freeing up funds for other businesses and services is laudable.

Nevertheless, if the SU is serious about "bar revitalization," it still has a

great deal more it needs to do beyond adopting sensible business practices. Through the obscene rent that the SU pays to the University will always hang like a millstone around the 'Plant's neck, a good place to carry on the return to profitability would be to break the union presence in the bars on campus.

For, unlike pretty much any other restaurant or tavern in the city—or province for that matter—the staff at the campus watering holes are unionized. While the union has been constructive when arguing for improved working conditions and equitable treatment by management, a bar, on the whole, is a pretty absurd place for one. With the recently raised minimum wage and tips—however slight—from patrons, the presence of a union is superfluous and, because of the inflationary effect they have on wages, damaging to the SU's ability to operate a profitable business.

Although there are unionized staff and \$120 000 flowing out for rent every year, it would be foolhardy to lay all the blame for the 'Plant's failures on these issues. The most fundamental problem the SU must tackle to staunch the flow of red ink is mismanagement of the 'Plant.

This is made evident by their steadfast refusal to lower alcohol prices for ethical reasons, despite the fact that this would lure more patrons. Even lowering food prices so that they don't put such a hit in the pocket book would provide a lure to get people through the doors. And this is where the management has really faltered. The philosophy that seems to have directed the operation of the 'Plant is, "If you build it, they will come." A lackluster line of these nights, a mediocre marketing campaign, expensive drinks, and its proximity to Whyte Ave together overwhelm the 'Plant's on-campus advantage.

The U of A is a long way from the corn fields of Iowa, and it will take a concerted, long-term vision from the entire SU before this white elephant can be ushered out the door and the Powerplant is back on a solid foundation of passed-out undergrads and minuscule gratuities.



A BIG PILE OF GARBAGE If we spread this out on the grass, it would probably look more familiar.

NEAL WILDING

Garbage in Edmonton a problem—help clean up



TIM
PEPPIN

In these few, precious days of temperate weather still left to us before snow settles permanently in early October, I try, as much as is possible, to ride my bike. Not only is it cheaper than motorized transportation, but it's better for both me and the environment. I'm also outside of a vehicle, exposed to the world, and usually moving at a slower speed.

Ordinarily, I would find this relaxing. However, it has recently been providing me with both the time and the proximity necessary to notice the Lethal and diverse sampling of litter and debris which adorns our lawns and roadways. This sullies my bike ride and causes me to hate my fellow man.

Something should be done.

Before I move on to what that something should be, however, I feel that it is necessary to say a few preparatory words.

Litter, like few other things besides talentless graffiti and enormous aluminum baseball bats, serves to make an area appear nasty, neglected and impoverished. Its presence indicates a lack of concern for, and pride in, an area. Litter, in a very real sense, is a symbol of misery and defeat. So it stands to reason that in a city like Edmonton where, despite its problems, there is so much to be proud of, there should be little refuse.

And yet, as my rides through the city have shown me, this is not the case. But given that, for the most part, the people I know in Edmonton are proud of their city and their neighbourhoods, I can only conclude that they either don't yet recognize it as a problem with deep implications for the character of a city, or that they are lacking leadership.

Our mayor, Stephen Mandel, realizes the significance of litter for a city's outside appeal, economic attractive-

ness, and the morale of its citizens. His understanding of the problem is one of the reasons he helped to implement the Capital City Clean Up—a program to reduce litter in Edmonton's downtown core. But our streets and neighbourhoods are part of Edmonton as well, yet it's simply too costly to have this trash collected for us. So what's to be done?

The answer is to clean it up ourselves. This Saturday morning, and every Saturday morning until the snow hits, I'm going out to pick up litter. And I'd like your help. We'll meet at the SUB doors closest to Quad at 10am. Bring a pair of gloves to protect your hands.

Some of you are likely scoffing, and wondering why you should pick up the trash that some other jerk dropped. The easy answer is that it needs to be done, and it's too hard to find them all and jam whatever they dropped down their pants. The real answer is that, strangely enough, sacrificing some of your time to improve the world around you will help to make you happy. See you on Saturday.

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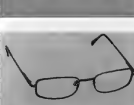


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SPORTS

sports@gatewayalberta.ca • Thursday, 8 September, 2005

Golden Bears look to double Calgary's misery

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

After coming within a single point of capturing the Canada West championship last fall, the Golden Bears got their season off to a victorious start last weekend, even if it wasn't pretty. However, since style isn't scored in football, the Bears (1-0) are more than happy to get the two points from their 40-18 win over the Simon Fraser University Clan despite a slow start where they managed only nine points in the first half.

"The first half was a learning experience for us; we hadn't been in a high-speed competition against somebody else yet, so we had to get into gear, get into the groove, create some momentum and play better in the second half," said head coach Jerry Friesen. "It was our first game and it took us a while to get into rhythm and get into sync and we managed to do that for about 20 minutes of the game. That was the good part about it, because it was 20 minutes that we took the opportunity to make sure that we got a 'W'."

The lopsided score of the game aside, Friesen is looking for a better effort from his team this weekend as the Bears will welcome the Calgary Dinos (0-1)—the only team to beat them during the regular season last year—to the cozy confines of Foote Field on Saturday. The Bears are looking forward to the match despite the fact that Calgary took one on the chin last weekend, coughing up the ball six times in a 51-10 loss to the University of Manitoba Bisons.

"[Calgary's loss to the Bisons] was a huge surprise. That was our initial reaction, but after you see the components of the game where Calgary was minus-six on turnovers, that will hurt you all the time and you just can't play football giving up the ball all the time," said Friesen. "[But] the two games between us and Calgary [this season] will be really competitive, and it's always a battle between us, no matter what and Calgary's going



TRAINING DAY The Bears football squad gets ready to play at home for the first time this season against the freshly shelled Calgary Dinos.

to be snarling mad because of what happened last weekend."

Although this battle of Alberta will be played in the shadow of the CFL version, Dinos head coach Tony Fasano downplayed any added motivation his team might draw from facing the Bears, who are ranked fourth nationally.

"There's always the rivalry, but I think that what

makes it big is that we have a chance to beat a good football team and they're probably thinking the same thing about us and looking to go to 2-0," said Fasano. "Obviously, it's going to be a big game, being on the road again, and we definitely want to come home with a win, there's no question about that."

"Every game is important and, this early in

the season we sure don't want to go down 0-2, and we definitely have to be a better football team than we were last week."

The Bears will be able to see if the Dinos do indeed field a better team on Saturday. Kick offs at 7pm at Foote Field. Bob Stauffer and Blake Dermott will call every down of the game live on the TEAM 1260.

Pandas hockey player the lone CIS name on Canada's U 22 roster



JAKE TROUGHTON
Senior News Editor

A year ago, Tarin Podloski was a rookie Panda who'd essentially fallen out of the sights of Canada's national hockey program. But after a stellar campaign that saw her run away with the Canada West Rookie of the Year award, it shouldn't be a surprise that the Pandas forward has skated her way back into contention.

Last month, Podloski was named to Canada's under-22 women's hockey team, capping off an amazing year that saw her become one of the biggest stars on an already star-studded Pandas squad.

"I felt that she always had the potential, but it really wasn't until nearing the end of the year and into the summer, when I saw how hard she was working, that I started thinking, 'Yeah, she's got a legitimate chance of making the team,'" said Pandas head coach Howie Draper. "She just seems more focused than I've ever seen her since I've known her."

Podloski, though, admitted that she didn't necessarily share her coach's optimism.

"It was definitely a big surprise," she said of making the team. "I didn't feel like I played my normal game [at tryouts]. I played a more defensive game, and thankfully it was what they were looking for."

Podloski scored 39 points in 21 games last year to finish third in Canada West scoring—only behind only her linemates, Kristen Hagg and the now-graduated Danielle Bourgeois, the most prolific scorer in CIS history by a wide margin. Playing on such a high-powered line certainly didn't hurt her statistics, but she didn't just luck into that position, Draper said.

"She was playing with two outstanding players. When you play with Danielle Bourgeois,

you know you're going to have a great season," said Draper. "But I really felt that she earned that opportunity to play with Danielle, and I wanted them together because I wanted a little bit of what Danielle had to rub off on Tarin, knowing her potential. And it seems like that's happening."

While there have been CIS players on the U22 team in the past, including Bourgeois and former Panda Lori Shupak, there haven't been many, and Podloski is the only one on this year's team. In comparison, 16 of the 22 players are from NCAA schools. Draper said it's important for the health of CIS to have representatives on teams like this one.

"It's something that all of CIS is striving for: to get more players on that team," he said. "A lot of the fathers of players I'm currently recruiting are saying, 'Well listen, I look at the list of girls who made the U22 team, and three quarters of them are from the NCAA; why would I send my girl to CIS?' I think there's almost a fear that Hockey Canada isn't considering players from CIS. But they'll like more top players to stay in Canada and they're trying to give them more of an opportunity to grow here. I hope that with a little bit of that and a few more Tarin Podloskis on the team, we might start to see things change."

Podloski's unexpected ascent to the national-team level may be important for CIS, but it will take more than that to turn the league into a regular player source for Team Canada, she said.

"I definitely think they should be looking at CIS players, but I know there've been other CIS players who have made it, and [Hockey Canada] still hasn't really leaned toward CIS," she said. "Hopefully they start to, because there is definitely talent in this league."

BURGEONING SUPERSTAR Second-year hockey Panda Tarin Podloski (pictured, in case you didn't gather that she's the only one in the picture) is the only CIS player on Team Canada's under 22

FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FORG



OUT-SIZED BUT NOT OUTMATCHED The Pandas played host to Tokyo-based team Aoyama Gakuin on Wednesday night in the Main Gym and fell to their guests in three closely contested sets.

KRYSTINA SULATYCH

Pandas Volleyball hosts Japanese team for exhibition match

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

Head coach Laurie Eisler and her volleyball Pandas will undoubtedly face some difficult challenges this season, but none like the one they say on Wednesday night in the Main Gym.

Last night the Pandas played host to Aoyama Gakuin, this year's Japanese national university champions, and lost in straight sets, 25-20, 25-21, 25-23. The Pandas welcomed their guests as part of an on-going exchange program that had seen them head to Japan in 1995 and again in 2003.

The Pandas put their competitive drive on the backburner for this exhibition match and focused instead on learning what they could from some international competition.

"[The benefits of the exchange]

are really two-fold," Eisler explained. "It's volleyball for sure, but it's [also] cultural exchange. Anytime you have the chance to build relationships with people from a different culture, people grow and it changes the way they look at the world. It has been really positive over the years."

Aoyama Gakuin held a distinct advantage over this skeleton-crew version of the Pandas, who Eisler admitted had only practiced together for only the first time on Tuesday.

"[This group is made up of] twelve or 13 of us right now," Eisler said. "[Outside hitter] Tawana Wardlaw is in Trinidad with the national team, and next week we'll have anywhere from ten-20 athletes at our open tryout. This [current team] is returning athletes and a few that I invited in just so I could fill the roster. This is a pre-event

to our Pandas team."

"They're very skilled and they're very good tactically and experience-wise. They look at us [as] a bigger block to hit off of."

LAURIE EISLER
PANDAS HEAD COACH
ON PLAYING A TEAM FROM TOKYO

Eisler said she anticipated a quality match from Aoyama Gakuin, noting that their guests were forced to adjust their game plan to accommodate for the Pandas' size advantage, but that

the adjustment certainly didn't put them at a game-altering disadvantage.

"They're very skilled and they're very good tactically and experience-wise. They just look at us [as though we're] a bigger block to hit off of. They have to play us a little differently than they would play another Japanese team. They're experienced enough to find different solutions for different problems. They're the defending national champions; so they're real good," she said with a laugh.

With the Pandas pre-event behind them, Eisler and her team will be setting their sights on the upcoming season and a return to their usual winning ways after an early exit from the national championship chase last season.

"We lost in the national semi-final last year, but I'm sure we could have

finished higher," she said. "Our plan is to always contend for a national championship and the only way you can do that is by getting through a really tough Canada West conference. That usually means you have to go through UBC, Calgary, and Regina, who have improved a lot. We have three of our members coming off of the University Games team which competed in Turkey this summer; a couple of them played in the Canada Games. Even though we're younger; we've got a decent level of experience."

The Pandas will face some familiar Canadian opponents the next time they step on to the court. They'll travel to Regina to take part in the Huskies Invitational, slated for 23-25 September. Their home opener takes place on 21 October against Thompson Rivers University.

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STUDENT'S UNION

Bears soccer loaded with young cubs as they persevere into season

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

Although most wouldn't associate the sudden addition of a golden hue to the leaves and sub-zero temperatures with soccer, for the Golden Bears, it means that another season is about to kick off, even though for many players on this year's edition of the team, it will be their first Canada West campaign.

After capturing a National Championship two seasons ago and riding a late-season push to qualify for the playoffs last year, the Bears have lost a large portion of their veteran presence to graduation, injury and transfer. Canada West all-stars Neil Morrow and Jordan Gillespie have both used up their CIS eligibility, while players Mike Kennedy and Clint Laidlaw, who both would be entering their fifth years, are still suffering the after-effects of injuries from last year, and look to be out for most of the season.

While all of those losses will hurt the team, especially on the back end, it was a loss because of academics that could disable the Bears offensively. That's because the squad's top goal scorer from last season, Brett Bachelu, bolted for the University of Saskatchewan after being denied entry into Nursing at the U of A.

"Now I'm thinking we're on a two year plan," said Bears head coach Len Vickery, whose team hosts the CIS national tournament next year. "We'll be strong in the goalkeeping positions, and we should be strong on the front line with some of our recruits stepping up. We do have a wealth of midfield players; but we are a little bit under-strength in the central defence with the losses from our seniors so, all



STRIKE FORCE Daniel Sharp (pictured left) and the Golden Bear soccer squad hope to secure one of the extra playoff positions available to the Canada West.

BIS TSE

in all we're going to field a very young team."

Employing a youth movement in order to gain experience could hurt the Bears in the ultra-competitive Canada West—a conference that has captured the national title each of the last two years. The struggle to capture one of the conferences' playoff births won't be helped by the

fact that UBC and Trinity Western University maintained significant portions of their rosters, and by the continued development of some of the previous lesser lights in the conference.

"Hopefully we'll be very competitive. We're not ruling out getting to the playoffs and hopefully getting the right result there and sending us to the

national championship."

Getting through to the national championships this year will be easier for every school in Canada West as an extra berth to the finals rotates over from the east this year. This means that teams will only need to finish in the top four after the regular season to make the playoffs and then only need to win one game to punch their

tickets through to the CIS finals.

The Bears' quest to be one of the two Canada West representatives begins 11 September when they take to the road to square off against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. Their home opener goes a week later when they play host to their rivals from the south, the University of Calgary Dinos.

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CIS finally arrives on television



CHRIS
OLEARY

Sports
Commentary

After years of floundering in undeserved obscurity, CIS athletics are finally beginning to make their way into the mainstream media. With the recent announcement that Rogers Sportsnet will be picking up seven Canada West football games toward the end of the regular season and into the playoffs, and more locally, the graduation of Golden Bears athletics from CJSR radio to the TEAM 1260, it seems that the days of the Gateway being the only consistent source for varsity athletics coverage could be numbered.

"I guess the bottom line is that we've been under-exposed for years, and I'm very hopeful that this will work out."

DON HORWOOD
BEARS BASKETBALL COACH

CIS has been hurting for some large-scale exposure for years. While you might be able to name some of the top athletes on our campus, could you name three non-Bear or Panda standout athletes? Have you seen quarterback Chuck Guelo of Calgary, or Saskatchewan's Steve Bilain in action before? If you can't put a highlight-reel worthy memory to the faces of these athletes, you're living a deprived life. The Sportsnet deal can help you to fulfill this gaping void in your existence.

While the TV deal is for football games this season, the possibility of this oft-overlooked level of athletics catching on with a regular audience could happen—if the product reaches the fans in

the right way.

"I think that, provided we do everything possible, that the schools are prepared to invest time and man-power to enhance their broadcasts, we'll have done our part," says the University's sports information director and TEAM 1260 voice Bob Stauffer. "If Rogers Sportsnet is stepping up [for us, then] we've got to step up and answer the bell and make sure that they're being served."

The news of the Bears football TV deal has met a positive reaction from coaches on other sports on campus as well. Basketball coach Don Horwood, whose team is slated to have their games broadcast on the TEAM after Christmas, is glad to have the attention of the local media, but remains guarded as to how long it will last.

"I think it's long overdue," he says. "It's been the same thing for the last 23 years here; it's the chicken and egg syndrome. The media says there isn't enough interest, and I'm saying if you start covering us there'll be a lot more interest once the fan base starts to see the people whose names they associate with what they see in the paper. I guess the bottom line is that we've been under-exposed for years, and I'm very hopeful that this will work out."

As the head coach of the other team that will be joining the basketball Bears on the TEAM's broadcasts this season, hockey head coach Eric Thurston was also pleased to hear about the football team's televised games, and hoped for a return to the media attention the Bears team he played on in 1986 received.

"When I played, we used to have a 'Game of the Week' on CFRN. If the TEAM is able to sell it and break even, then I think it will succeed, and we can build from there. The more exposure you get out there, you hope that more people will fill the seats at Clare Drake Arena."

I've been saying it since I started covering this stuff two years ago, and with larger media outlets getting involved this season, maybe a lot more of you get to echo my sentiments: for what you get to see, CIS athletics are the best value of a sporting event the city of Edmonton has to offer.

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Home Field Advantage

Feature by David Berry
Photos by Krystina Sulatycki

Bear Country: your guide to where our sports teams play

If there's one thing that University of Alberta athletes know about, it's the importance of padding. No, seriously: whether it's dodging frozen pucks, crashing onto hardwood floors, or slamming into other people, that padding most of them wear is seriously important to not getting bruised or concussed or something, so those athletes know their equipment inside and out.

However, if there's another thing they know about, a more grandiose thing, it's winning. The Bears and Pandas take home national championships like they were Thanksgiving leftovers, and even when they're not raising banners, they're still fighting for top spot in their division.

Now, since everybody likes a winner—and a person who understands the importance of proper jock strap maintenance—you'll probably want to get yourself on down and check out some of our top-ranked athletes. To help you in that goal, we here at the *Gateway* have decided to give you a little guide to where, exactly, you can find these championship teams playing, so as you don't get lost and end up cheering on a traffic jam on Whyte Ave and 109 Street.

So sit back, relax, read this little bit of info, then go paint yourself green and gold in preparation for a new season, because after this, the only excuse you'll have for not going to see our athletes play is stupidity or a terminal illness.

Foote Field

A hold-over from the 2001 World Athletics Championships, this lovely little artificial turf/natural grass stadium is but a bus ride away from the regular campus, nestled just south of Belgravia Road on South Campus (take the number six bus marked "Millgate" and get off when you see the big field). Home to a bevy of sports teams,

including football and field hockey (on the fake turf), and soccer and rugby (on the real stuff), this field of dreams is one of the nicest outdoor venues in Canada West, and definitely a far cry better than the pock-marked mud hole your high school teams used to play on. Due to the outdoor nature of the facility, most sports here begin in September, so be sure to go early, and go often.

Main Gym

Stuck smack dab in the middle of the Van Vliet Centre, just south of SUB, the Main Gym is the place to find sports of the hardwood variety, namely volleyball and basketball. With ample seating, some of the squeakiest floors in the business, climate controlling and a *Gateway* billboard so horrifying that it would grow hair on a baby's head then turn it white, the Main Gym is actually one of the more comfortable venues on campus, which is good, because both basketball and volleyball can get freakin' loooooong. Both of these fine sports start sometime around mid-October, though certain special events, like the Can-Am challenge, will be taking place a bit earlier.

Clare Drake Arena

Named after a Canadian sporting legend, and home to more than a few more over the years, Clare Drake Arena is one of our campus' most storied athletics buildings. Tucked away just behind the Van Vliet centre to the southwest of SUB, here you can find hockey of both the Bears and Pandas variety, as well as enough championship banners to make visiting teams go, "Woah, that's a veritable cornucopia of championship banners," then break down and cry right before games. There are almost always ridiculously good deals on food and

drinks at the concession, and there isn't really a bad seat in the house. That said, if you ask me, the best spot is just below the announcer's booth, so you can not only watch the game, but also hear the dulcet tones of Bob "Hot Stauff" Stuaffer calling it live on the radio. The action starts in mid-October.

The Butterdome

If you don't know where the Butterdome is, you're either entirely colour-blind or you're probably not going to be around the U of A long enough to have any reason to go back there. The big, yellow building on 87 Ave, this monolith to creative paint jobs houses not only track and field, but also wrestling, and the occasional larger tournament of volleyball or basketball, though usually not of the varsity variety, unfortunately. The only real problem with the building is that it doesn't get used enough, and that people tend to avoid it because it reminds them of either Orientation or a horrific exam written in the presence of 1000 other people. That shouldn't deter you, though; both sports hold meets throughout the year, so keep your ear to the ground for dates and times.

Other venues

The Saville Centre, located on South Campus, features ten curling rinks and eight tennis courts, and plays host to, well, curling and tennis. Though the swim team practices on campus, they tend to hold their meets in the Kinsmen Recreation Centre, located at the bottom of Watford Hill (that big one you hit if you drive north on 109 Street for a while). Quad has also been known to host a mean game of Frisbee or two, but that's hardly a varsity sport, so you really shouldn't worry about it too much.

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Huskies frequent roadkill on Bears and Pandas road to success



ROSS
PRUSAKOWSKI

Sports
Commentary

Geographically they're thrown together; siblings, born in the same year, their universities formed simultaneously. Their proximity to one another has forced them to share everything, whether it's major rivers, boring-ass farmland, or the equally lame Lloydminster. It's only natural that in university sport, Alberta and Saskatchewan butt heads in just about every matchup imaginable.

This intimacy and history with one another has bred a heated, but good-natured rivalry between the University of Alberta's Golden Bears and Pandas and its sibling school to the east, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. Not even the battle of Alberta can approach the importance or intensity of the contests between the Bears and Pandas and their Husky counterparts.

That's because unlike Calgary, who struggles to field high-calibre teams on a consistent basis, it's an abnormal year when Saskatchewan's teams aren't going head-to-head with Alberta's for first. That's because both schools devote extensive resources to their athletics program to ensure that they can attract the best athletes and have them tutored by outstanding full-time coaches. In many of the sports, and especially in football and men's hockey, Alberta teams can't escape showdowns with their cross-border rival.

While the Bears may have been skating circles around the rest of their opponents in Canada West for the better part of the last decade, the Huskies have been anything but pushovers, and are one of the few teams that can skate and dangle with Alberta. Both teams lead the CIS in attracting former Canadian Hockey League players and the repeated clashes between the two programs in the Canada West final—meeting eight times in the last nine seasons—show that both the Bears and Huskies stand head and shoulders above every other team in Canada West.

If it wasn't for Canada West typically having but a single berth to the national championships, fans across Canada would be treated to more games like last year's 4-3 overtime thriller between the two and not forced to watch teams resorting to the boring-yet-unfortunately-successful slow-paced, clutching-and-holding game as they battle their way to titles. When the Bears host the best in the nation once again in the spring, the Huskies will probably be right there with them, and it shouldn't shock anyone if they skate away with the title this time.

While the battles on the ice are still a ways off, the clash between the grizzly versions of the Bears and Huskies is but weeks away and should be an epic battle. Both teams are Vanier Cup contenders and loaded with talent. After dropping their label of bad-news over the past few seasons, the Bears can't be taken seriously until they knock off the Huskies, a squad that has been one of the last two teams standing in the CIS two of the last three years. Until the Bears can figure out how to beat them, Saskatchewan will hold the edge in their meetings, especially at playoff time.



FILE PHOTO CORY WANLESS

SUBTLE RIVALRY The Bears and Pandas annually run into a familiar roadblock: the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

The Golden Bears team has definitely been on the rise in the last few seasons. The Huskies, however, have been a team at the pinnacle of CIS football and have consistently been one of the best programs, while Alberta struggled mightily until recently. Now, after making massive strides the last two seasons, this is where the Bears need to put up or shut up and show

that they can knock off their flatland rivals in November when they are the favourites. If once again the Bears fail, it could be a few more falls before they again challenge for the Canada West crown, as they'll lose an unrivalled crop of players after this season.

Even beyond the ice and field, the path out of Canada West for any team usually involves a showdown with the

Huskies. While the Bears and Pandas have the edge in most sports, every contest between the two squads isn't the cakewalk-like matches against the rest of Canada West. Nevertheless, one only needs to look to the rafters at the number of CIS banners hanging to know that—for the moment—the upper hand in this rivalry rests firmly with the Green and Gold.

A DAY WITH THE PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 14TH 2005

New U of A President Indira Samarasekera is meeting undergraduate students.

Join us in welcoming her to campus.

WAYS TO BE INVOLVED:

10:45 am	President's Address "As President..." Scholarship launch	SUBstage
1:15 pm	Campus Community Event	International Centre

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Aussie Rules football rules



JAKE
TROUGHTON

Sports
Commentary

It is, of course, no secret that the Australians are the best in the world at everything that they do. They have the best national anthem, the best-named animals, the best opera house, the best safety record for anesthesia, 40-litre cans of Roster's, and by far the best dialect of English.

Yet, despite their obvious superiority, they receive almost no credit from the rest of the world for what is, by a wide margin, their greatest achievement of all—indeed, humanity's greatest achievement of all. I speak, of course, of Australian Rules football.

Given the immense global popularity of other codes of football—soccer, rugby league, rugby union, and, to a lesser extent, that odd gridiron game they play in the Americas—it's baffling that Aussie Rules hasn't conquered the globe. While all varieties of football are great, and I love them all dearly, the Australian version is simply the superior game.

Much like chess, the beauty of this sport lies in its simplicity. There are no offside, no complicated penalties, and only two ways to score: a six-point goal by kicking the ball between the inner two of four posts, and a one-point behind by kicking between an inner and outer post. You can advance the ball by running, kicking or punching (but not throwing) it, you get a free kick for cleanly catching ("marking") a pass kicked over 15m, and contact is permitted except for blows from

behind or to the head. That's essentially it, yet from these simple basics derives a skillful strategic game that is easy to learn but difficult to master.

Aussie Rules has all of the qualities that make the other codes of football great, with none of the drawbacks. It has the manly unpadded collisions of both codes of rugby, but with more strategy than league and without the near-constant penalties of union. It has the speed of North American football, without the continuous stoppages of play, and the intricate passing of soccer, with the added worry of getting the spot knocked out of you if you're not quick enough.

Aussie Rules also requires the most skilled athletes. Not only is the range of required skills at least as broad as any other code of football, but every player needs to possess every one of them. They also need to be able to do it for 80 minutes without substitution on what are—because the game is played in cricket stadiums—by far the biggest fields in the football world. Playing an Aussie Rules match is like running a marathon while 18 people try to stop you. Ricky Ray may light up the field at Commonwealth Stadium with his passing, but he wouldn't last a quarter at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The superiority of the Aussie game is beyond dispute. Yet even now, with the Australian Football League's Finals Series in full swing and the Grand Final on deck, there's a near-total lack of coverage here in Canada. That's not even close to what this game deserves. That Aussie Rules is not better appreciated outside of Australia is the gravest of injustices. It's time to demand our sports broadcasters start delivering the best brand of football in the world.

But then again, I still haven't seen the Gaelic game.



SUNBURNT NECK This poor, unnamed goalie was the victim of an offensive NHL assault earlier this week at Clare Drake arena, as the Bears helped a number of Oilers prepare for their upcoming training camp, which begins Monday.

IRIS TS

**GREEN.
GOLD.
GREAT!**



U of A RINGETTE

September is here and the U of A Ringette Club is raring to go! Last year's accomplishments include silver medals at the University Cup and Provincials, as well as a 10-3 win over Team USA. This year they have their sights set on gold.

Have you got what it takes to be part of one of the best university ringette teams in Canada? Why not come to tryouts and see U of A Ringette exhibits this finesse sport at its best. So come out and experience a lifetime of great memories.

For important tryout info check out
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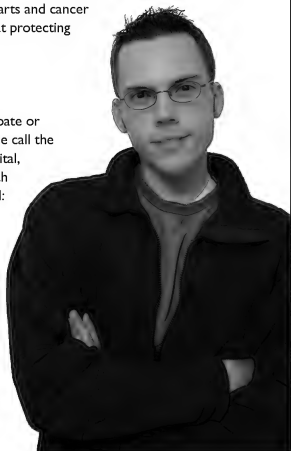
HPV (Human Papillomavirus)

- most common sexually transmitted disease
- associated with genital warts and cancer
- condoms are ineffective at protecting against HPV infection
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Interested?

If you would like to participate or for more information please call the University of Alberta Hospital, Infectious Diseases research office at 407-1236 or email: alindemu@cha.ab.ca

Incidental expenses related to participation in the study will be reimbursed.



A quick
introduction
to almost
everything
you wanted to
know about
the University's
governing bodies

Feature by Daniel Kaszor and Ross Prusakowski
Photos by Matt Frehner, James Storrie, and Iris Tse

U and your Government

The governing bodies at the University of Alberta are, to put it bluntly, almost incomprehensibly complex. Figuring out which bodies are in charge of what, what standing committees report to which voting bodies, and who is in charge of which pertinent issues can take years of careful study in the realm of hackdom and bureaucracy.

However, it is—or, at least, can become—incredibly important to you if you ever have to deal with any of these bodies. To help you through this messy morass of red tape and voting committees, we've compiled some brief explanations of the basic governing bodies of the U of A, from your fellow students in the Students' Union to the PhDs and notable citizens of the University administration.

Now, this information is far from comprehensive—it would take most of our newsprint just to get past the SU—but it is a pretty solid bare-bones primer on the nuts and bolts of our bureaucracy. So, if you want to have a knowledgeable conversation about University issues, how University policy changes, and what the differences are between all the elections you will be voting in throughout the year, the information below is the place to start.

The Students' Union

The Executive

The most notable and visible part of the Students' Union is the Executive Committee. Elected by the undergraduate student population each March, the exec takes control of the day-to-day business of the Students' Union.

The president is in charge of the entire organization, and he has four vice-presidents at his disposal, each in charge of a self-descriptive portfolio: the vice-president (operations/finance), vice-president (external), vice-president (academic) and the vice-president (student life). This year, the people filling these position are, respectively, Graham Lettner, Jason Tobias, Samantha Power, Mathieu Johnston and Justin Kehoe. To find out more about the VPs you can read the profile features on them in the news section (page 7 and next Tuesday).

One Council to Rule Them All

Students' Council is the body ultimately responsible for all the policy, legislative and financial matters of the SU.



Council spends time grappling with issues ranging from budgets for businesses and services—like RATT, SUBtitles and even Orientation—to the policies the SU adopts towards issues like parking and student loans, and the methods by which student representatives are elected. As with most government, though, after the decisions have been made, the implementation and operation of the decisions is generally left to the vast SU bureaucracy, with Council simply retaining oversight. However, Council retains the final say on any matter. That's because—contrary to popular belief—it's the Students' Council that sits at the very pinnacle of the SU pyramid, not the Executive Committee. While the president and each of the four vice-presidents are paid and tasked with the day-to-day running of the organization and its business, without the support of Council, their power is limited to simply management and proposing ideas.

Volunteering at the Highest Level

The ability to introduce new legislation or policy isn't the solitary domain of the executive committee, though. Every voting member of council has the same power.

Like the executive, councilors are simply students who ran in either the general election in the spring or the fall by-election and received the requisite support to be elected. However, councilors are elected only by the other undergraduate students in their faculty, and must remain in that faculty over their term to stay in office, unlike the executive, who are elected by the student body at large.

Represent Ya'll

One of the things that helps to dilute the power an executive committee might wield is the widespread

distribution of seats, which means that any bill hoping to pass requires a broad base of support. That's because every faculty that has undergraduate students, no matter how small it is, receives at least one seat on council.

Councilors elected by faculty occupy all but eight of the 50 seats on council, so the seats remaining after each of the 16 faculties has received the minimum single seat are distributed on the basis of enrollment within a faculty. This means that the faculties of Science and Arts—each of which have nearly 6000 undergraduates—receive nine and eight seats respectively, a good deal ahead of three seats the next largest faculty—Business—possesses.

The final eight seats on council are ex-officio, and are always occupied by the members of the executive committee and the undergraduate Board of Governors representative, all of whom have voting privileges. The general manager of the Students' Union and the speaker round out the composition of council, but both are non-voting members.

Layin' Down the Law

While who exactly makes up council varies from year to year, the process of getting from a bill to bylaw is as old as the smell in the basement of Cameron. It begins with an idea and a councilor willing to draft the initiative and place it on the agenda. That's when the fun begins.

Depending on the motion and the legislative backlog, a bill is either considered right away or sent to languish at the back of the order paper for many meetings hence. When the bill finally does reach the top of the pile, it's debated. If, after what is typically a lengthy and circular debate, the majority of councilors present approve the bill, then it has been read a first time.

At this point, the bill is referred to one of the Students' Council committees. It's here that the principles Council approved are examined and an actual bylaw drawn up and returned to the entirety of Students' Council.

If a committee feels that a bill is unfeasible, it will draw up the bill and include a report recommending that the bill be defeated on second reading and why. Unless a committee has attached a recommendation that a bill be defeated, or Council believes a committee misinterpreted the principles approved at first reading, the second reading of a bill is typically a formality and requires very little debate.

After receiving a second successful vote, the legislation or policy is now official and binding on the SU and all its employees and—depending on the bill—students, the University and many others. While the process seems fairly straightforward, the complexities and principles of bills and the discrepancy between councilors schedules means this whole process can take anywhere from two council meetings, to months on end and even longer if the debate is fierce and provokes a flurry of amendments, motions and attempts to table.

The University of Administration

The government of the University of Alberta is a strange beast when compared to its equivalents at other universities. Where the overarching governing body of most postsecondary institutions is the senate, it isn't so for this University. In 1942, the then-governing senate actively refused to ratify a suggestion from the honorary degree committee to give a degree to Premier William Aberhart. Since the degrees suggested by the committee were normally just rubber-stamped by the Senate, and

continued on the next page





Aberhart was already confirmed to be the keynote speaker at that year's convocation, the snub was difficult to ignore. This led Aberhart to restructure the University Act, which caused, among other things, the senate's major powers to be reduced to almost nothing, with the exception of the ability to grant honorary degrees.

The University Executive

The Executive of the University acts much like the one from the Students' Union, bowing to the will of their respective legislative bodies; however, unlike the SU, the positions aren't elected, nor are they term positions.

On the executive level, all power flows down from the president, going through the provost, who is also the VP (academic), to the other vice-presidents and their staffs.

The Board of Governors

The main level of legislative governance at the University of Alberta is the Board of Governors (BOG). To put it in the words of the University, the BOG is in charge of the "conduct, management and control of the University and all its property, revenue, business and affairs." The board appoints the deans of all faculties, and all members of the teaching staff.

Undergraduate student representation on the 20-person BOG is limited to the Students' Union (SU) President and a separately elected Board of Governors representative. While the president is mandated to represent the views of Students'

Council on the Board, the BOG rep is mandated to represent what he or she feels is the will of the student population at large, which may be different than the views of Council or Council's ongoing standing policies.

General Faculties Council

Below the BOG is the General Faculties Council (GFC). Where the Board of Governors is the ultimate power over the financial and material aspects of the University, the GFC is the ultimate board for academic decisions. Unlike the BOG, the GFC has a great deal of student representation. Of the 152 seats, 55 are held by students and of those, 40 are elected at the same time as SU council elections (by faculty, much like SU councilors).

Many things need to pass through the GFC for approval, including any changes to the University calendar or the admission standards of the University. The GFC also works alongside the BOG to recommend teaching appointments, academic program planning and any other aspect of University life that has both a financial and academic component.

Standing Committees

Much like the US House of Representatives, so much legislation passes through the BOG and the GFC that several standing committees need to be formed to break up the work and process it at an acceptable rate. As such, much of the discussion over issues happens at the committee level, before being brought to vote.

The Voting Process

The voting process on the administration side is similar to that of the Students' Union. Bills and proposals go through several readings before being put into action by the University executive and bureaucracy.

So in conclusion now you know the very basics how the U of A government works. Now, when some yahoo tells you that the University needs to fix this or that, or that the GFC messed up or that Council is pointless, you can know what they're talking about. Welcome to University government—you've just taken your first step to becoming a hack, or at least one of their admirers.

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT

Hack: A person who is involved to a great degree in the details of Students' Union business, often to a manic level. Usually used in a derogatory way, but sometimes claimed as a badge of honour by those who consider themselves hacks. Also used to explain anyone who is overly involved in something (eg. A policy hack, a Gateway hack).

Ex-Officio: By virtue of one's office. Certain seats on many bodies and committees are automatically given to people with certain positions, such as the President of the University.

Term Position: A job that expires after a certain amount of time. At the point of expiration, the person either has to re-apply for the job or move on.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Beer Gardens

Quad
7-9 September, 11am-6pm

Just when you thought the easy days of summer were over, university gives you one last (respectable) reason to drink out in the sun.

This year's beer gardens will not only feature your standard choices of moderately priced beverages—Kokanee or Kokanee Gold, judging from past variety—but will have its stage fully occupied by the likes of local rockers Murder City Sparrows and Long Way Down. With the traditional Quad gathering being the biggest alcohol-oriented event on campus each year, this will be your first and last chance to make a fool out of yourself and not be alone. After beer gardens, it will have to be in the relative privacy of your friends and roommates, who won't let you forget about your shameful display all semester.

Sleeping Bag Drive-In

Quad
Friday, 9 September at 10pm

One of Week of Welcome's most popular events, the Sleeping Bag Drive-In will turn what was, earlier in the afternoon, the arena for drunken debauchery into a theatre fit for—or—classic cinema.

Soon to open in Quad will be Tim Burton's *Big Fish* and Steven Spielberg's *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, an odd mash-up that will go largely unnoticed by those still inebriated by the afternoon's activities or freezing from their underestimation of Mother Nature. Dress warmly, friends, it will get cold.

So grab your teddy bear, security blanket, or whatever souvenir from home that will transform you from a homesick freshman into an outgoing social butterfly and head down to Quad for an evening at the movies.



Metric

with *All Purpose Voltage Heroes* and *Columbus*
Dinwiddie Lounge
Sunday, 11 September at 8pm

What, you're not wiped from all the drinking and late-night movie watching? Good, because the Week of Welcome festivities will be capped off this Sunday in Dinwiddie when Canadian indie-rockers Metric grace the stage in Dinwiddie Lounge.

Building up momentum for their CD release tour this fall, Metric's show at the U of A will be the first of two shows the band will be playing in Edmonton in the next few months. After their show at the Starlite Room this October, your chances to see Metric in small venues will be few and far between, so snatch up this opportunity when it's here.

Never heard of Metric, you say? Well, now that you're in university, you can learn yourself some taste in music. Drop that Hoobastank CD and pick yourself up a pair of tickets to Metric's show.

MIKE LAROQUE
Entertainment Editor

More bang from your Buck

Canadian hip-hop artist Buck 65 returns to the University of Alberta for his second WOW concert in as many years. Just don't think he's planning on giving you the same performance twice



LEANNE FONG

CANADA'S 50 CENT? Top economists name the exchange rate as the leading cause of Buck 65's growing success. That, or his jaunty stage antics.

Buck 65

with *Ridley Bent* and *Brannwell Park*
Saturday, 10 September at 8pm
Dinwiddie Lounge

IRIS TSE

Design & Production Editor

It's been almost a year to the day since Canadian hip-hop icon Buck 65 played Edmonton, and when he returns this Saturday, he will be a changed man. He proposed to his writer girlfriend Claire, found a permanent home in the chic St Germain des Prés neighbourhood in Paris, put out a new album, and along with the likes of the Arcade Fire, Broken Social Scene, and New Pornographers, he is now part of the latest batch of Canadian musicians to find widespread recognition both locally and abroad.

For a man who grew up as Richard Terfry in a bucolic small town in Nova Scotia, he's adjusting to his new life quite well. Though his familiar country drawl and Atlantic Canada inflection are still present as his voice crackles over the phone from his Paris apartment, his fondness for his new hometown is quite evident. Paris, he explains, has an intangible familiarity that draws him in whenever he's there.

"It's a feeling that I've only had a couple times in my life," says Buck. "I felt it when I was in Hawaii, too. Something there just resonated and it's not an easy thing to put my finger on. But I can remember the feeling distinctly. I remember the first day when I came here, looking around, taking a deep breath and just said to myself, 'Yeah, this feels right.' There's something here that just works for me."

And it turns out that his first impression was right—Paris is a good fit for him both personally and creatively. He is aware that he isn't the first artist to find inspiration abroad and, like

his predecessors David Lynch and Tom Waits, he's slowly developing a cult following on the strength of his successes in Europe.

"I wasn't so much thinking about it consciously in those terms when I came here in the first place, but I found out pretty quickly that it was tailor-made fit. So I'm just writing more than ever," he says. "It's a great place to live and a very inspiring place to be."

"If I just want to perform the record in a real clinical way, then people won't have the reason to come out. They might as well just stay home and listen to the album. I try very hard to not do the exact same show twice. Ever."

BUCK 65

It's not surprising that his Paris experience plays a large part in shaping his voice and the atmosphere of his latest album. The record, *Secret House Against the World*, is a marked departure from his previous work, with Claire's vocals featured heavily throughout the record. It also marks the first time he has collaborated with artists beyond his usual song-writing core.

"When we made *Talkin' Honky Blues*, we totally figured what a formula for Buck 65 is and how to make a 'Buck 65' song," recalls Buck. "Then, because we have these exciting opportunities to work with some other artists on this new album, we thought it was time to put this formula on hold for a little while to try out some new ideas and have an opportunity

to learn more about ourselves. It's always interesting to meet a challenge myself and push my own limits."

While Buck remains hip-hop's best storyteller and folk's best beat-maker, the album still can't help but disappoint those who expected another "Wicked and Weird," the deliciously catchy single from his previous award-winning album, *Talkin' Honky Blues*.

"As far as the album goes, it's true that it's pretty different from my previous records. In a lot of ways, and for better or worse, I think that the single 'Wicked and Weird' from the last album seems to have the effect of setting people up for certain expectations," says Buck. "I love that song and I stand by it and really enjoy performing it, but if you look at the entirety of my catalogue, it's a pretty anomalous song. There are people out there who are expecting more of the same thing from the new record, which I don't necessarily think I exactly delivered."

Those who went to last year's concert will remember fondly his Mick Jagger moves and impromptu comedy. Buck, who prides himself in entertaining his fans, wants them to know that they can expect the same sort of stage antics from him this year. Just like his music, he draws his stage performance from different sources, including older traditions such as vaudeville, theatre and cabaret.

"When you think about it, live performance isn't what it used to be," says Buck. "I just think that keeping that spirit alive and really having people come out in my setting and really entertaining them, and not just go through the motions, is important."

"If I just want to perform the record in a real clinical kind of way, then people won't have the reason to come out. They might as well just stay home and listen to the album. I try very hard to not do the exact same show twice. Ever."

Laid-back Danny Michel starts to get serious

Danny Michel

with AA Soundsystem and Trevor Tchir
Friday, 9 September at 8pm
Powerplant

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

We all have our own means of relaxation.

For some of us, a nice frothy beer accompanied by a basketful of greasy fries can shake off the stress. For others, a nice meander around the house wearing absolutely nothing will relieve the most intense feelings of trepidation. But for popular singer-songwriter Danny Michel, a chilled-out attitude and mellow personality are the best remedy for the daily pressures of life in the music business—or elsewhere.

The calm and collected Michel—who, after calling, admitted that he'd "just arrived at his friend's house and drank two glasses of wine"—is definitely no stranger to the bustling world of music. With six records under his belt, numerous guitar gigs with other bands, and a couple of Folkfest appearances, Michel hasn't lost sight of who he is and what he's here for.

"I'm doing this tour for no other reason than that I want to play for people who want to hear me," Michel explains. "What you see is what you get. If someone sat down and read the lyrics through the last couple records of mine, it's pretty much like reading my diary. When I get onstage, I'm not another person—I'm 100 per cent me."

Ever since his abrupt leave of absence from the music industry a few years ago, the laidback Ontario native has begun to understand the importance of taking things slow. In an osymnronic sort of way, Michel has remained sane by keeping himself busily un-busy. For example, Michel recorded a CD at Christmas last year—which, at the moment, remains nameless, due to the fact

that you "can't name a baby before you see it"—and was supposed to be released this year. But, as a result of his perpetual mulling-over of the record and the attractiveness of relaxing under the summer sun, the release of his record will have to wait until next year.

"That's because good things deserve the wait, or some type of saying like that," Michel says with a laugh. "There must be a saying that explains it. Oh, yeah, I think it's 'good things come to those who wait.' Yeah, I think that's the one."

"All of this Canadian Idol and American Idol stuff is really rotten because people just want to be a star. They want to be recognized at the mall."

DANNY MICHEL

But even for the easygoing Michel, the music business can get overwhelming—and often extremely frustrating. This year, for instance, he was nominated at the Juno's for Best New Artist of the Year—after having already released five albums. But, being the nice guy he is—"My moon will be happy you said that," he jokes—Michel just laughed it off.

"It was kind of like, 'Okay guys, thanks,'" Michel says. "Everybody was laughing at that. It just goes to show you what the industry is like. I can put out records for ten years and the industry still doesn't know who I am."

While that sort of recognition can be both frustrating and gratifying, Michel isn't looking for the fame and fortune either. According to him, the decision to follow music as a career path must be for the right



NOT SO LAID-BACK AFTER ALL Ontarian Michel has some strong opinions on the music biz and rockstar wannabes.

reasons. "Too many people want to be famous and want to make money," Michel explains. "All this Canadian Idol and American Idol stuff is really rotten because people just want to be

a star. They just want to be recognized at the mall."

While his public recognition as a musician might now be starting to exceed the Ed Norton look-alike factor—"I get it all the time,"

he admits—he's more than willing to get up onstage this Friday at the Powerplant and soothe us with his mellow melodies—that is, while we drink our beers, eat fries, and, uh, hopefully wear some clothing.

Fresh Pasta Daily.

L'E X P R E S S

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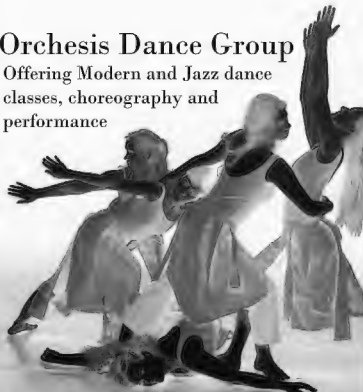


Photo: Bryan Sim

Classes begin Sept. 10
www.campusrec.ualberta.ca/orchesis.cfm
Information: 492-0770

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Watch out for Jets Overhead

Jets Overhead

with Ten Wags from Sunday
and Servo
9 September at 8pm
Sidetrack Café

JESSICA WARREN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you're in an independent rock band, chances are your thinking is directed in one of two possible directions: either getting your music onto the desks of the big-wigs at the major record labels, or getting it into the hot, sweaty hands of the music craving-masses. Victoria's Jets Overhead is following the latter route, moving their music steadily east, hoping to promote their new album, *Bridges*.

"We're a hypnotic rock band, with music for folks who like layered, textured melodies," says Piers Henwood, who along with Adam Kittredge, Jocelyn Greenwood, Luke Renshaw and Antonia Freyre-Smith makes up the west-coast rock-outfit. "We don't have any sort of fireworks or anything. It's a pretty basic stage show, for us it's more about the music than anything."

Being small but self-sufficient is how Jets Overhead has survived during their three years together. They released a self-titled EP in 2003 which received acclaim in both Canada and the US, and their new album, though created with the help of \$440 front-man-turned-producer Neil Osborne and a grant which supports independent arts, is nonetheless promoted completely by the band members themselves.

"We're self-managed right now. We know the basics of the infrastructure of the industry," Henwood says. "For all of us, the band is definitely a break-even prospect. Our bigger audiences



are on the West Coast, so we're making money over here, but in Regina there are less people who come in, and it's a little harder to play."

Despite the difficulties, Jets Overhead has played shows as far abroad as the United Kingdom, and while Henwood admits there are some basic cultural differences between audiences in Canada and those in England and Ireland, he sees more of a split between big city fans and those who live in more rural areas.

"We've found that in most of the bigger cities the audiences are more stand-offish. They'll stand in the back with their arms folded and just listen to the music, rather than become involved. In smaller cities, people tend to be a little less—I don't know—'too cool for school,' they're more into it."

After living in a small city themselves, the band has created an album that relates strongly to the concepts of traveling elsewhere, and since Victoria is situated on an island, the

theme of isolation and loneliness is also strong.

"Everyone in the band is from Victoria, and growing up there gives you a lot of experience with movement," says Henwood, in reference to the frequency in which they must travel off of the Vancouver Island. "We're faced everyday with the beauty of living on an island, and also with the prison an island can be."

Although their first tour stop for *Bridges* will be in Saskatoon, Jets Overhead is planning to head back to the UK in the future. Despite their ability to fill venues overseas, Henwood makes it clear they won't be aiming to pack stadiums anytime soon.

"As a fan of music, I don't like going to huge venues because there, you really lose the intimacy of the music—and the transmission of emotions. Communicating directly to the audience is a more graspable goal when you're in a more manageable environment."

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Third World photo show spreads the word on AIDS in Africa

Canadian photojournalist documents the ongoing crisis in Africa—and has some strong opinions on how things need to change

The San: AIDS and Dislocation

Photographs by Robert Semeniuk
30 August–15 September, 9am–3pm
Artist reception Tuesday,
13 September at 7pm
Victoria School of Performing
and Visual Arts Art Gallery

MATT FRIEHEIMER
Photo Editor

Robert Semeniuk—a Canadian photojournalist—might at first glance not appear to be one familiar with Third World crisis. He lives on a small island off the coast of British Columbia and cans juice from his own grapes, which are “quite sour, but very prolific.” He has also, however, committed ten years of his life to what he calls “personalizing the world health crisis,” an ambitious project which uses photography to raise awareness of growing health epidemics in the poorest parts of the world.

Everyday, newspapers and magazines present us with beautiful, colourful images of death and devastation. These images are the photojournalist's stock in trade. Semeniuk, though, isn't much of a war photographer.

“I've been to lots of war zones,” he muses. “When I hear the shooting, fuck, I go the other way. I'm interested in what is going on behind the scenes, what motivates people.”

“These places of poverty are really war zones, too,” he maintains. “If you want to experience that for yourself, just go hang around some alley in downtown Vancouver, or on 97th street in Edmonton. People are in survival mode, and you are going to find that the dynamics are really quite the same.”

Semeniuk, in fact, consciously chooses black and white film to draw us towards this less-sensational face. “It's a spontaneous medium, it opens up a lot more picture possibilities, because you aren't worrying about



PROVIDED BY ROBERT SEMENIUK
PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT SEMENIUK

“THERE ARE NO FOXES IN BOTSWANA” The three months Semeniuk spent documenting the AIDS crisis led him to believe education methods need to change.

colour or correction, you're working with content.”

Dealing with the world health crisis is a big problem, and Semeniuk is firm about the purpose of his work. He aims, simply, to bring a personal face to what can often be overwhelming statistics.

“It's the kind of photography that nobody is going to buy to stick on their wall. Most people want pictures of pussycats or horses,” admits Semeniuk, who strives to get his work displayed in public places where it can impact more people. “What happens at galleries? People show up for the reception, eat sushi, have a

few drinks and go home. That's it; nobody's really seeing the work.”

By searching out his own funding, Semeniuk has what he calls the “luxury of time.” He can interact with people often passed over by photojournalists searching for sensation. “Good pictures come from putting in your time,” Semeniuk asserts. “If you look deep enough into anybody's family, you're going to find drama.”

“I spoke to a truck driver one time,” explains Semeniuk. “He picks up these Zimbabwe hookers, who'll screw you for \$30 without a condom, \$10 with. So that's the difference,

that's the kind of risk they are going to take, which is preposterous, really. So I ask this guy—he's got two kids and a wife—don't you worry about getting infected and infecting your wife? And he says, ‘I don't do it that often.’”

Semeniuk feels that the most daunting problem with AIDS in Africa isn't a lack of information, but that they are attempting to educate the native population through rote textbook learning, which is usually met with blank stares rather than a concrete change in attitude.

“Bill Gates has got a \$100 million down there in anti-retroviral clin-

ics,” Semeniuk continues. “They have posters and billboards, and condom machines; the message is out there. So why is the AIDS rate going up? Because they are targeting the wrong fucking people for these things. People just don't get it. They think [AIDS] is about somebody else.”

As if to prove this claim about the system in place to educate Africans, Semeniuk describes another of his pictures. It shows a little girl writing, at a blackboard, a familiar English as a second-language phrase: “The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. Only, he observes, “There are no foxes in Botswana.”

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Cobain's *Last Days* not quite depicted in Van Sant film

Last Days

Directed by Gus Van Sant
Starring Michael Pitt, Lukas Haas, Asian
Argento, Scott Green, Nicole Vicus,
and Ricky Jay
Opens 9 September, 2005

EDMON ROTEJA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"It's a long, lonely journey from death to birth." These lyrics from *Last Days*, Gus Van Sant's latest film, summarizes the tone of the movie. In this psychological exploration—based loosely on the death of grunge-rockers Kurt Cobain—the audience witnesses the final moments experienced by a Cobain look-alike, Blake (Michael Pitt).

Like Cobain, Blake is a confused young rock star, on drugs and rife with emotional issues. Along with these problems, Blake is withdrawn from the real world, a point driven home when he wanders around a forest during the film's opening. Sleeping, bathing in a river, and endlessly stumbling throughout the forest, Blake's behaviour is detached and apparently without reason.

Blake returns home to his huge, castle-like mansion, which is also an equally huge metaphor for Blake and Cobain's lives: an outside that reflects wealth and fame while the inside is ripe with darkness, gradual wear and decay. The location of the mansion itself—nestled in a forest—also subtly hints at Blake's feelings of isolation and loneliness in the world that surrounds him.

Blake wants to escape his environment and he makes great effort to evade the attention of outsiders who

seek him. These outsiders include a salesman who discusses the renewal for last year's Yellow Pages ad, a set of Mormon twins who travel door-to-door spreading the word of their faith, and a snooty private detective posing as a local law enforcement figure. Whether it concerns money, faith, or just plain soliciting, Blake yearns to escape and continually be alone by himself.

Fortunately, Blake finds solace in his music, with one scene showing him play every part of a song titled "From Death to Birth"—a tune that suggestively explores the themes of suicide, struggle, and silence. The song also foreshadows Blake's ultimate demise.

Unfortunately, *Last Days* is riddled with several problems itself. Kurt Cobain fans seeking an *El True Hollywood Story*-type of documentary or docudrama about Cobain's life will be disappointed, especially since the film lacks a definitive narrative, story line, or general plot. Just like how friends and family members are never sure about what is going on inside the head of a drug-addicted loved one, so does this film not presume to give you any definite answers to Blake's own suicidal motives.

Blake also speaks very little dialogue. Sometimes it becomes difficult to discern and make out what he's saying, especially since it sounds like he's groaning or mumbling whenever his mouth is open.

It's also hard to pinpoint how certain characters are integral to the film's plot, as non-existent as it is. In the Yellow Pages ad salesman just a device employed by Van Sant to expose the dull and emotional lone-



liness that Blake experiences? Are the Mormon boys supposed to represent angels who have descended from heaven to take away Blake's soul? Most of the characters and actions in *Last Days* are subject to interpretation, interpretation that lacks cues and any sort of definite meaning. Metaphors run rampant—and sometimes out of control—throughout Van Sant's drama.

Nonetheless, the film does have its highpoints. The moody soundtrack and sound effects add to Blake's mysterious psyche and suggest at the darker themes of life itself. There are moments where all the audience hears is the flow of running water—as if someone was moving about in a puddle of liquid—epitomizing Blake's existence, that he is just moving through life, merely "going

with the flow," while life itself passes him by.

Yet, with loose metaphors and vague symbolism, the film leaves speculation around Blake's life, ironically appropriate given the speculation that surrounded Cobain's. Despite this, *Last Days* clearly portrays how Blake's—and in turn, Cobain's—life was perhaps a "long, lonely journey from death to birth."

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Babiak finds a treat in his serial

Local *Journal* writer and *Gateway* alumnus Todd Babiak has written a novel about Edmonton, and for 100 straight days, you get to read it free of charge



MAN ABOUT TOWN Todd Babiak adds an unusual level of excitement to Edmonton in his novel, *The Gameau Block*.

The Gameau Block

Written by Todd Babiak

The Edmonton Journal

Daily until 16 December

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

While some people may like to joke that the best place to find good fiction is by reading the *Edmonton Journal*, starting 9 September, that might not be such a bad thing to brag about.

Starting on the front page for its first installment and then moving to the second page of the City Plus section until its conclusion in December, the *Journal* will be publishing one chapter a day from *The Gameau Block*, a serial novel written especially for the *Journal* by feature writer, columnist, and *Gateway* alumnus Todd Babiak, who admits he was both excited and terrified to revive a medium not used since the 19th century by such authors as Charles Dickens.

"If people are reading this, I mean, I'll have 200 000 people reading this thing in a newspaper," Babiak reasons. "Whereas, if you publish it in a book, particularly a book that doesn't get any marketing or distribution, a bestseller in Canada is 5000 copies." The difference in readership is obvious, and Babiak admits that many of the authors he considers "famous" haven't sold more than 5500 copies.

From 9 September to 16 December, the *Journal* will publish all 100 chap-

ters of *The Gameau Block*, a story set in a fictional Edmonton neighbourhood whose residents have to deal with a mysterious death. Babiak asserts that it is more than the location that gives the story a local feel.

"The editor-in-chief called me in and said 'Here's this book, it's really strange, why don't you check it out? ... He knew I'd written and published a novel before [Choke Hold], so he'd thought it was natural fit for me to do this thing ... I thought about it for about three minutes. I, of course, said yes."

TODD BABIAK

"There are themes I find that are distinctly Edmontonian: the arts, the oil culture, the way we are with our pets. Political culture, too," he explains. "Having lived in Edmonton a long time, and writing and thinking about it like a writer, I tried to notice tons of little things and stick them in

this novel." However, the novel was a rather sudden project. Having started on 3 May, Babiak only finished the final draft on 3 September, less than a week before the first publication.

"About two weeks before [I started], the editor-in-chief, Allan Mayer, called me into his office, and he had this copy of 44 Scotland Street by Alexander McCall Smith," Babiak relates. "[Smith decided to write a serial novel] and it was set in Edinburgh, and it was a hit in the newspaper and some people loved it and some people hated it, but people noticed. It created a mythic power for the city."

"The editor-in-chief called me in and said 'Here's this book, it's really strange, why don't you check it out?'" Babiak continues. "He knew I'd written and published a novel before [Choke Hold], so he'd thought it was natural fit for me to do this thing. I wanted to—and I thought about it for about three minutes. I, of course, said yes."

It's a daunting task to be the first to write a serial novel in a Canadian newspaper, but Babiak takes it all in stride, having learned a lot about the novel writing business—and himself—during the process.

"A lot of myths about writing a novel are true: that it's hard to get published, that it's torturous and lonely and heartbreaking, all those things are true. It's hard to write and it's a terrible thing to do with your life, but I'm still glad I didn't go into law or high finance."

Rock School will kill your parents

Rock School

Directed by Don Argott
9-12 September, 7pm
MetroCinema

CHLOÉ PEDRO
Deputy News Editor

It's hard to be taken seriously when you're ten years old and wearing a purple t-shirt, even if you did cut off the sleeves and you're holding a shiny red guitar. But at the Paul Green School of Rock Music, an establishment dedicated to training children from ages nine through 17 in the ins and outs of rock and roll, kids prove that as goofy as they may look, they're serious about achieving musical greatness.

Rock School is a documentary film profiling Paul Green, the founder of a Philadelphia-based school that teaches kids to play the likes of Pink Floyd, Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin, leaving out the piss-poor modern hits that top today's charts.

"Do you love Satan?" Green asks his students as he's teaching them the basics of rock and roll. "Do you love, like, hot women, and rock music and all that? 'Cause that's what Satan gives us, to tempt us from what we should be doing."

Throughout the film, Green treats his students in a profane and abusive manner, using childish threats to encourage them to practice their music and, ultimately, realize their talent.

"If you even stop working for one second, you're out. You're out of Rock School, alright? And I'm going to hunt your dad and I'm going to kill your family, alright?" he shouts to a crowd of his students, with veins bubbling out of his skin. "I will kill your family."

Despite the loud and immature tactics used to scare his students into submission, the kids are more amused than intimidated by his twisted brand of humour. One student in particular, Will, is the social misfit of the gang and habitually turns into the butt of Green's jokes. Will has a love-hate relationship with his music teacher, appreciating Green's passion for rock, but also

recognizing that his tactics are unconventional and often downright mean.

"It's a loveable quirk that he's mentally disturbed," Will admits to the camera.

In contrast to Will, who has no musical talent, ten-year-old CJ is a prodigy who represents the pinnacle of Green's success as a teacher. Green believes that even with such talent, CJ needs to grow up before making it big, and *Rock School* is a place where he can explore and develop his talent while waiting to mature.

Then there's Madi, a practicing Quaker who struggles with developing her musical aspirations and maintaining her spiritual identity. Green finds pleasure insulting her religious beliefs and her friends, the "friendly gangstas," who turn godly hymns into rap.

The youngest of the bunch are the twins, Asa and Tucker, whose mom identifies herself as a soccer mom without the soccer. She is happy to apply makeup to her son's faces and spike their hair before watching them perform shows singing Black Sabbath.

The film wraps up as a select group of students head to Germany to play in a Zappa festival, impressing even Napoleon Murphy-Brock, one of Frank Zappa's original musicians.

The film mostly consists of twisted words of encouragement spewing out of Green's mouth, pushing students to work even harder and learn the difficult riffs. "You mess up once. I'm going to fucking punch your face in," he says to one of his twelve-year-old students. Strangely, this tactic not only seems to drive the kids forward, but also makes the film a guiltily entertaining treat.

Oddly enough, in the face of the immature and sometimes cruel teaching methods, Green's music school is still a successful venture. Even Will, who in the end leaves Green's school to explore other non-musical avenues, admits that his time at *Rock School* was a life-changing experience that helped him in becoming more socially integrated and brought him out of a suicidal slump. "If it wasn't for *Rock School*, I'd probably be dead."

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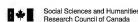
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ADAM GAUMONT
 Circulation PAL

Corb Lund embraces his Albertan identity wholeheartedly, and this pride is both refreshing and contagious. Never is it more apparent than on "Hurtin' Albertan," though it still poles through on nearly every track, including the autobiographical "The Truck Got Stuck," as well as "Trouble in the Country," a song (partially) about the Mad Cow crisis.

The music on the album is typically simple and understated, with just the right amount of yodelling mixed in. It acknowledges the traditions of the genre, and is further legitimized by the presence of folk-country legends Ian Tyson and Ramblin' Jack Elliott.

For, as charmingly simple and old-fashioned as his music may be, Lund—who studied jazz guitar at Grant MacEwan College—is a skilled and deliberate musician, seemingly overqualified for the job. Indeed, he often seems to be both mocking and embracing the genre, like a big kid who still dresses up for Halloween.

Whatever his formula, it's a winning one, making this album a must-have for any true "Hurtin' Albertan."



MAYBE IT NEEDS MORE COWBELL Tim Rechner of Champion, Alberta plays 'til he sweats at the Sidetrack Friday night. Eyewitnesses report no actual cowbell. NEIK BOLIANATZ

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Brian Blain

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ADAM GAUMONT
 Circulation PAL

It doesn't take long to figure out that "Colourblind" Brian Blain is no regular juke joint Johnny, but rather a purveyor of what can best be described as "blues-light." He doesn't pretend to be anything he's not, and simply sings about what he, as a middle-aged white guy, knows. Thus we have songs such as "Saab Story," "No More Meetings," and "Hi-Tech Blues."

This is not to discredit Blain as a serious musician, though. He clearly knows his way around a guitar, and strings together several groovy, if simple, rhythms, to go along with his mostly cheeky lyrics. He also has songs on the more serious side: on "Blues is Hurting," he laments the state of today's music industry, while on "Enfant Chôlé," a delicate tale of adoption in pioneer-era Quebec, the Canadian songsmith performs fluently in French.

Perhaps Blain wouldn't last five minutes in a Southside Chicago club, but at least he's down-to-earth and honest about himself. Blues fans (and soccer coaches and middle-aged parents) looking for something different should give Blain a try, but comparisons to BB King and Muddy Waters must be checked at the door.



Mamma Mia! a singing, dancing, 70s Swede-pop delight

Mamma Mia!

Starring Bekah Nott, Lauren Mufson, Lisa Mandel, Laura Ware, Tony Clements, Milo Shandel, Ian Simpson and Robert Adelman Hancock
7-18 September
Jubilee Auditorium

EDMON ROTEJA

Arts & Entertainment Writer

The musical *Mamma Mia!* has an interesting premise: it combines a love story, a soap opera, and a coming-of-age tale, all told through a series of ABBA's greatest hits.

The play opens in a cozy, Mediterranean-style villa where the entire musical's action, drama, and, of course, singing, take place. As for the story itself, the audience is first introduced to Sophie Sheridan (Bekah Nott), a young, naïve-sounding 20-year-old who is soon to be married. Despite being madly in love with and excited about marrying Sky (Robert Adelman Hancock), Sophie still harbours trepidations about marriage. Sophie feels that her life is unfulfilled, since she has always wondered about the true identity of her long-lost father. In order to appease her life-long curiosity of her true identity, Sophie invites no less than three of her mother's past lovers to her wedding. Any of these three men could possibly be Sophie's true father.

Sophie is adamant that she'll recognize her true biological father the moment she sees him (only to find out the opposite). To make matters worse, her mother, Donna (Lauren Mufson), a headstrong, indepen-

dent woman, is at first unaware of the invitation and arrival of her former lovers to the somewhat remote Greek Island. Once everyone encounters each other, reminiscence and emotional awkwardness ensues as Sophie attempts to determine which of the three men is her real, biological father.

The best thing about *Mamma Mia!* is that it's kind of like watching a live, blockbuster Bollywood movie: just when a quarrel or an intimate moment between characters is about to take place, rather than fighting or kissing, the characters break out into song and dance. The ABBA songs—70s chart-toppers from *Dancing Queen*, *Take A Chance On Me*, and obviously *Mamma Mia!*—also act as asides and even mini stories that add more depth and history to the musical's many personalities. The songs add an atmosphere of energy and enthusiasm to the musical (especially given that a new song is sung almost every five minutes), so there is never a dull—or silent—moment.

With more than 20 of ABBA's greatest hits, *Mamma Mia!* is highly recommended for any ABBA fan, young or old. What's even more exciting is that the play concludes with the entire cast and ensemble singing ABBA hits, including "Dancing Queen" and an encore of the title song "Mamma Mia!"—a performance that captures the spirit that made ABBA so popular in the 1970s. For those who hunger for 70s Swedish pop music, tight bright spandex, and a love story, *Mamma Mia!* will definitely fulfill your appetite.



SHE'S A DANCING QUEEN But not only 17, I'm afraid. *Mamma Mia!* is now playing at the Jubilee Auditorium.

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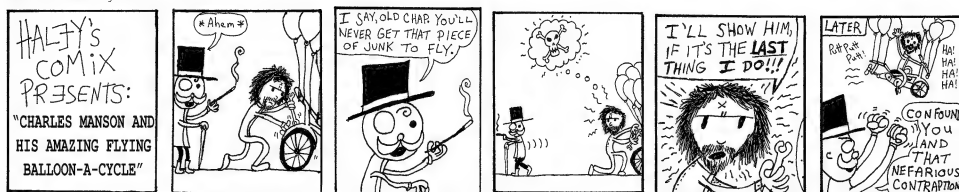
MICH MICH by Shaun Lyons



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN by Mike Winters



HALEY'S COMIX by Mike Robertson



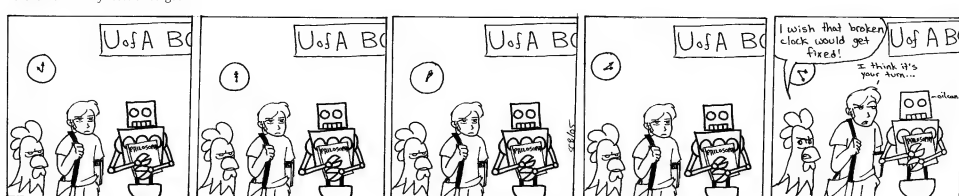
ANNA by Megan Simko



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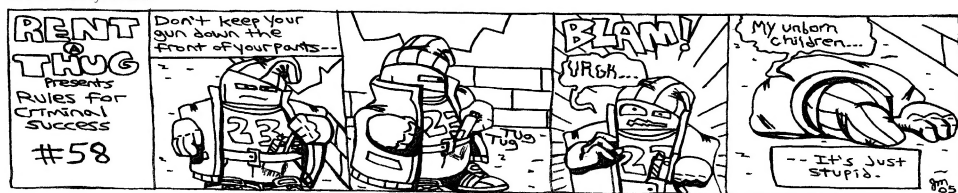
VARSITY HAPPENINGS by Bill Benson



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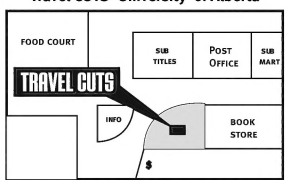


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EVENT-O-TRON 3000

Campus events and more...

Society for the Preservation of the Mixtape presents its inaugural meeting on Monday, 12 September 2005, at 5:30 pm in La Pasta, HUB Main, upstairs. Talk about music, hear about upcoming shows, trade tapes! The Society for the Preservation of the Mixtape is having its first (ever) meeting Monday evening. Bring a mixtape - no cds! For more information, please contact 780-905-4202.

EOT3 is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. EOT3 is usually printed in the Tuesday editions of The Gateway each week. EOT3 does not publish events that are weekly, ongoing, or not open to the public. We only accept free events. To place an entry in EOT3, please go to www.gatewayualberta.ca/hblb.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASL Sign Language Course, Level One, begins 20 September, 2005 for twelve weeks: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30pm. Contact Specialized Support and Disability Services, U of A, 492-3381, 2-800 SUB for more information.

EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

FLEXIBLE HOURS—weekend carwash/ fuel station attendant—various locations around campus and Edmonton—WAGE: NEGOTIABLE. >58 pdfw—apply to office@hughespetroleum.com.

Scona Pool requires a part time cashier. Must be available to work evenings and weekends. Some daytime availability is also required. Please e-mail your resume to office@parksandrecplus.com or drop off at 10450-72 Avenue.

Scona Pool requires a part time lifeguard with some daytime availability. Must be 18 yrs old and hold current NLS, BC, ABC or standard first aid. Please e-mail your resume to office@parksandrecplus.com or drop off at 10450-72 Avenue. Attention: Serena.

Law office has opening for students interested in working as receptionist on part-time basis. Salary is \$11 per hour. Please fax resumes to 430-1773.

PT Aid needed for female quad on weekends and M-F am shifts. Located near Southgate. \$11/hour. Training available. Call Lisa 425-5450.

Male quadriplegic requires live-in aid, two weekends per month. Driver's license required, will train. 499-0603.

Synchronized swimming coaches wanted. See orcasyncho.org. Call Janet 662-5141.

Perfect for 8 Ed students! Childcare centre near U of A needs Mon, Wed am shifts. Start \$5/hr. Call 434-7754.

A Cappella Catering hiring part time Service Staff (day/evening). Valid drivers license required. Duties to include: driving, expediting, and serving. Opportunity for advancement. Flexible schedule perfect for students. Competitive wage and gratuities. Fax 454-2748. Attn: Kim or email kim@cappella.ca.

Wanted responsible couple to manage 3 storey walkup apartment building near U of A. Ph: 922-7010 or 717-3513.

Cooltest job in town!—MARBLE SLAB CREAMERY on Whyte Ave.—We will work around your school schedule, part-time and full-time scooper positions available. Fax resume to 406-7604 or apply at 10358 82 ave.

Attention Students \$18.05 base app. Fall openings. Flex. schedule, sales/service, will train, conditions apply. Call Now! 453-9006. www.collegeincome.com.

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